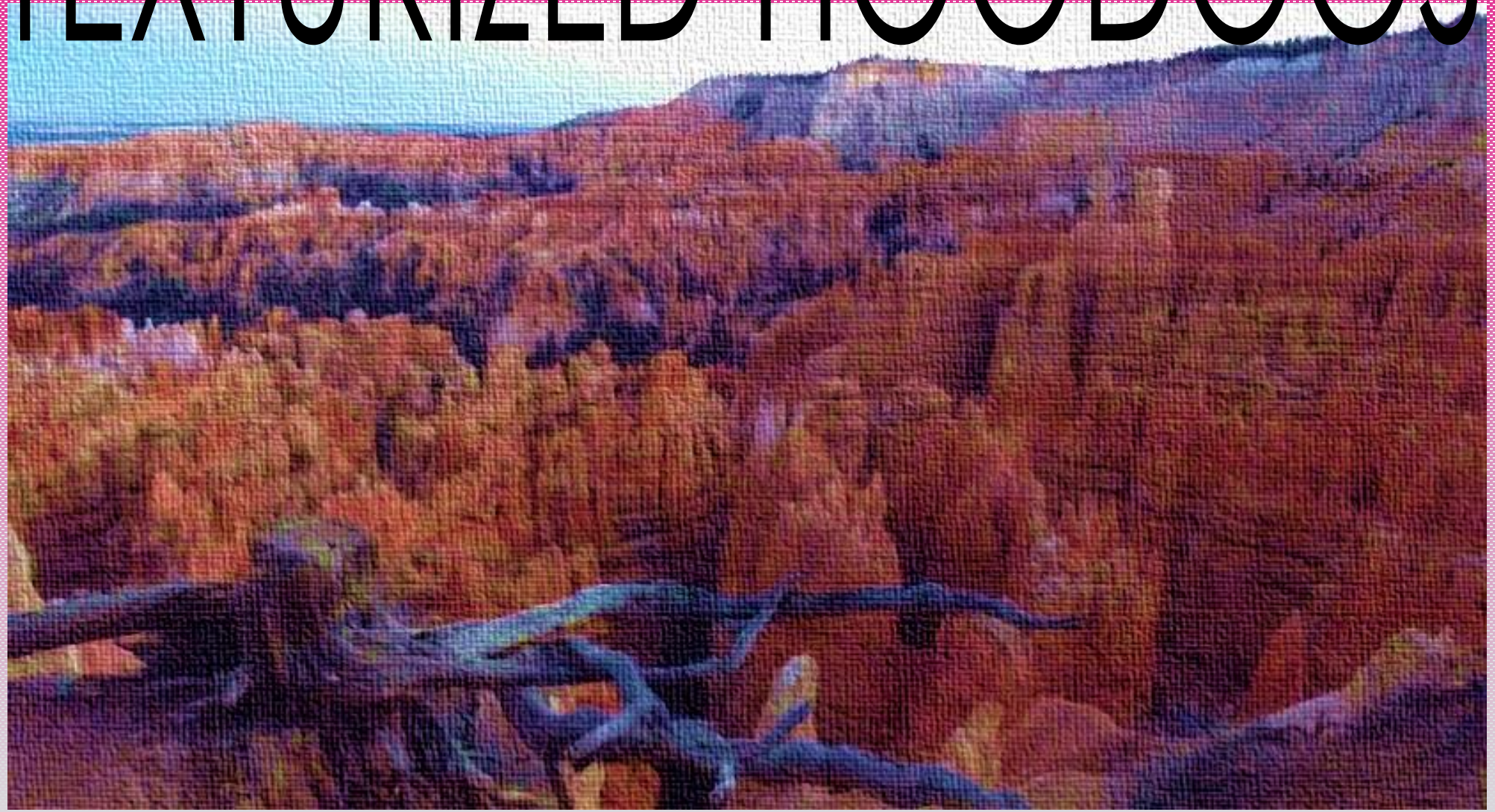
TEXTURIZED HOODOOS



A photoalbum from Bryce Canyon National Park by Florentin Smarandache

Explanation

This photoalbum contains photos taken in Bryce Canyon National Park of the Paunsaugunt Plateau in Southern Utah, USA, during a trip I made in November 2012.

The colorful formations of limestones, sandstones, and mudstones are shaped by erosion, and collectively called "hoodoos".

The pictures herein were computer-texturized, and personalized in color saturation or tone.

Geographical, geological, ecological, historical, cultural, and touristic information about Bryce Canyon National Park are given along with the images.

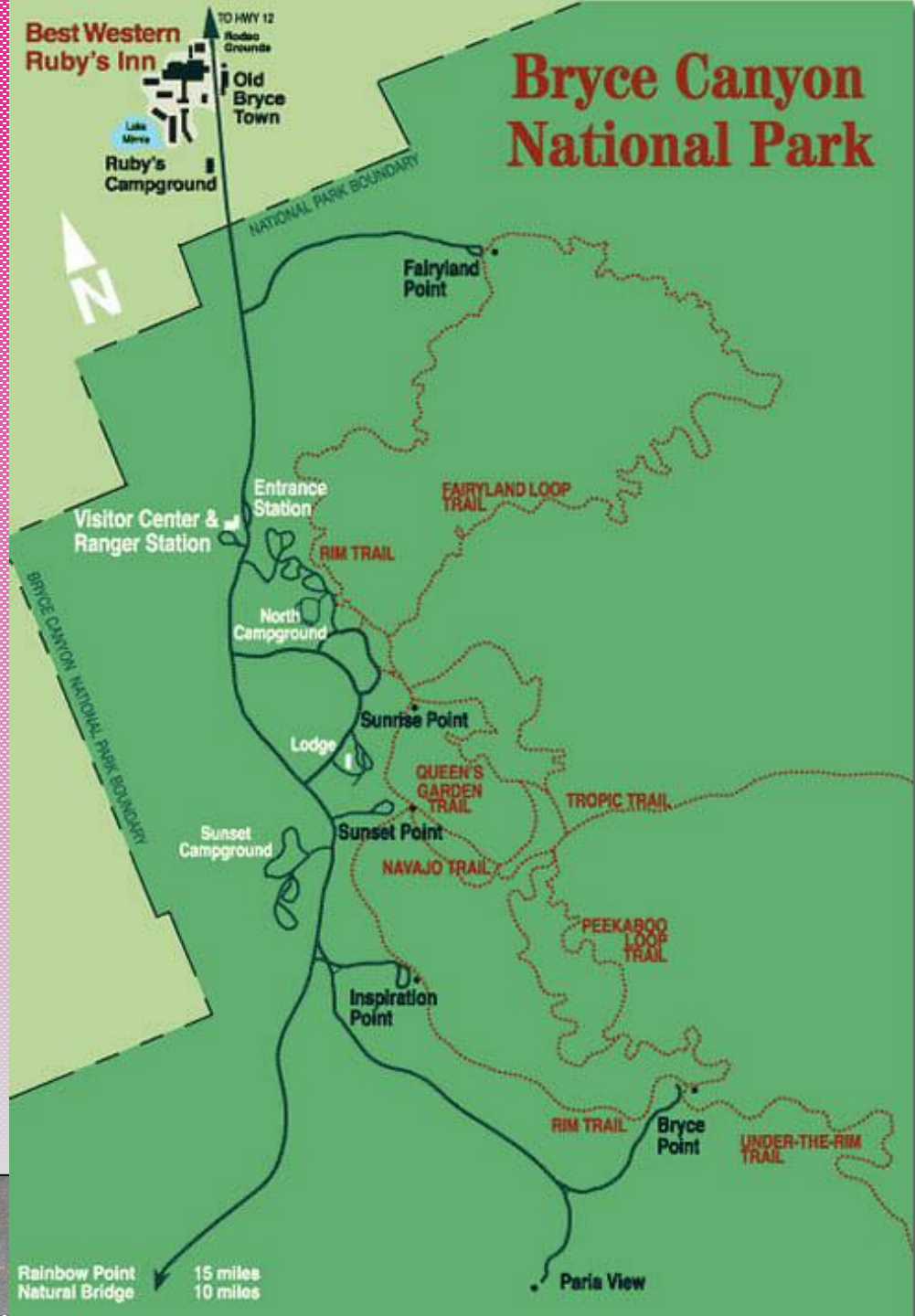
Florentin Smarandache

TEXTURIZED HOODOOS

A photoalbum from Bryce Canyon National Park

by Florentin Smarandache

BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK
Established: 1928
Size: 35,835 acres
Annual Visitors: 2.7 million



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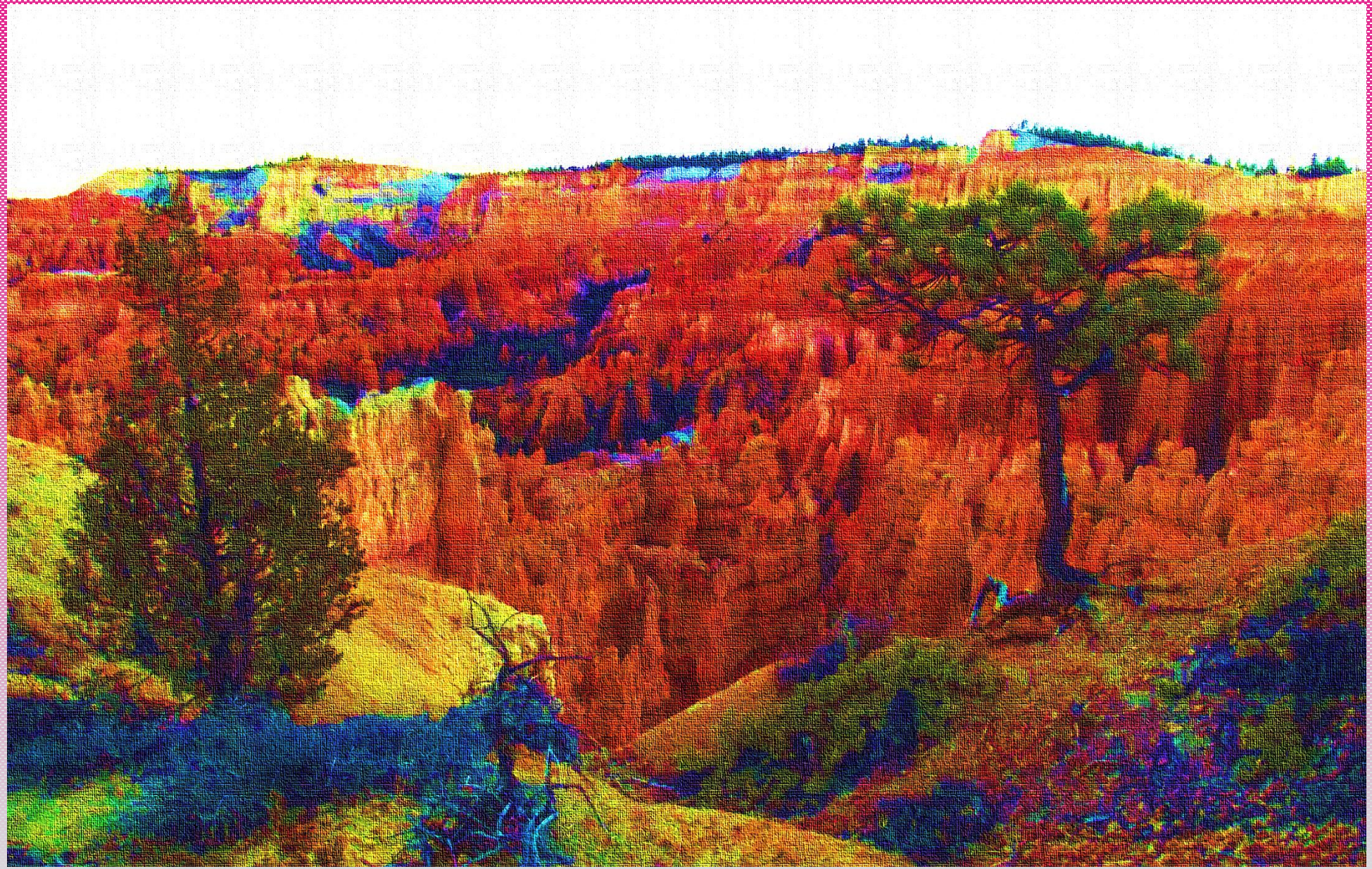
The rugged landscape of Utah was carved by water, wind and snow for millions of years, producing a stunning eyesight.

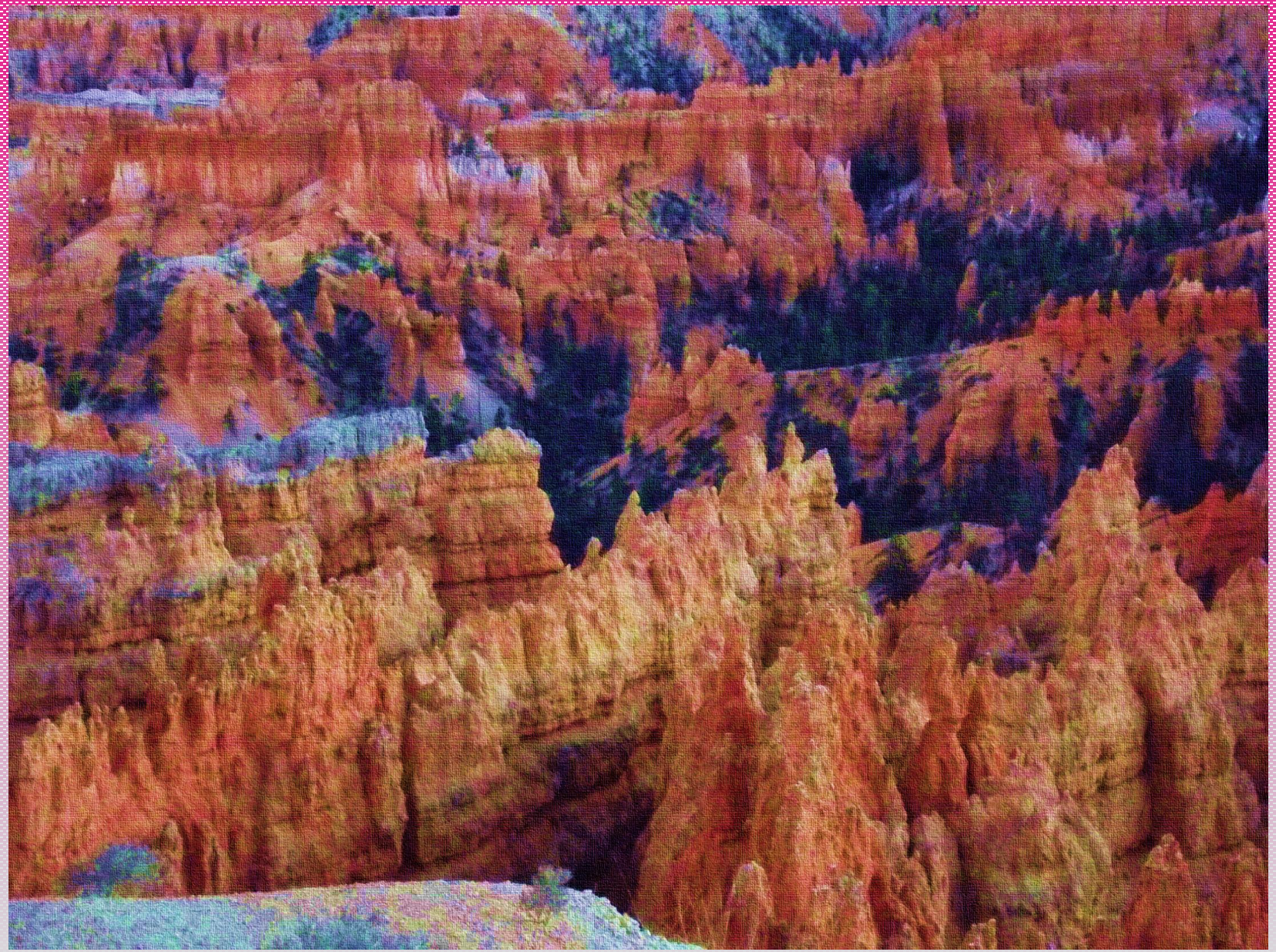


The red-rock wonderland, the wilderness of phantom-like rock spires, or hoodoos, attracts 2.7 million visitors a year.

Bryce Canyon lies along the eastern side of the Paunsaugunt Plateau, in northern Kane County and southwestern Garfield County.

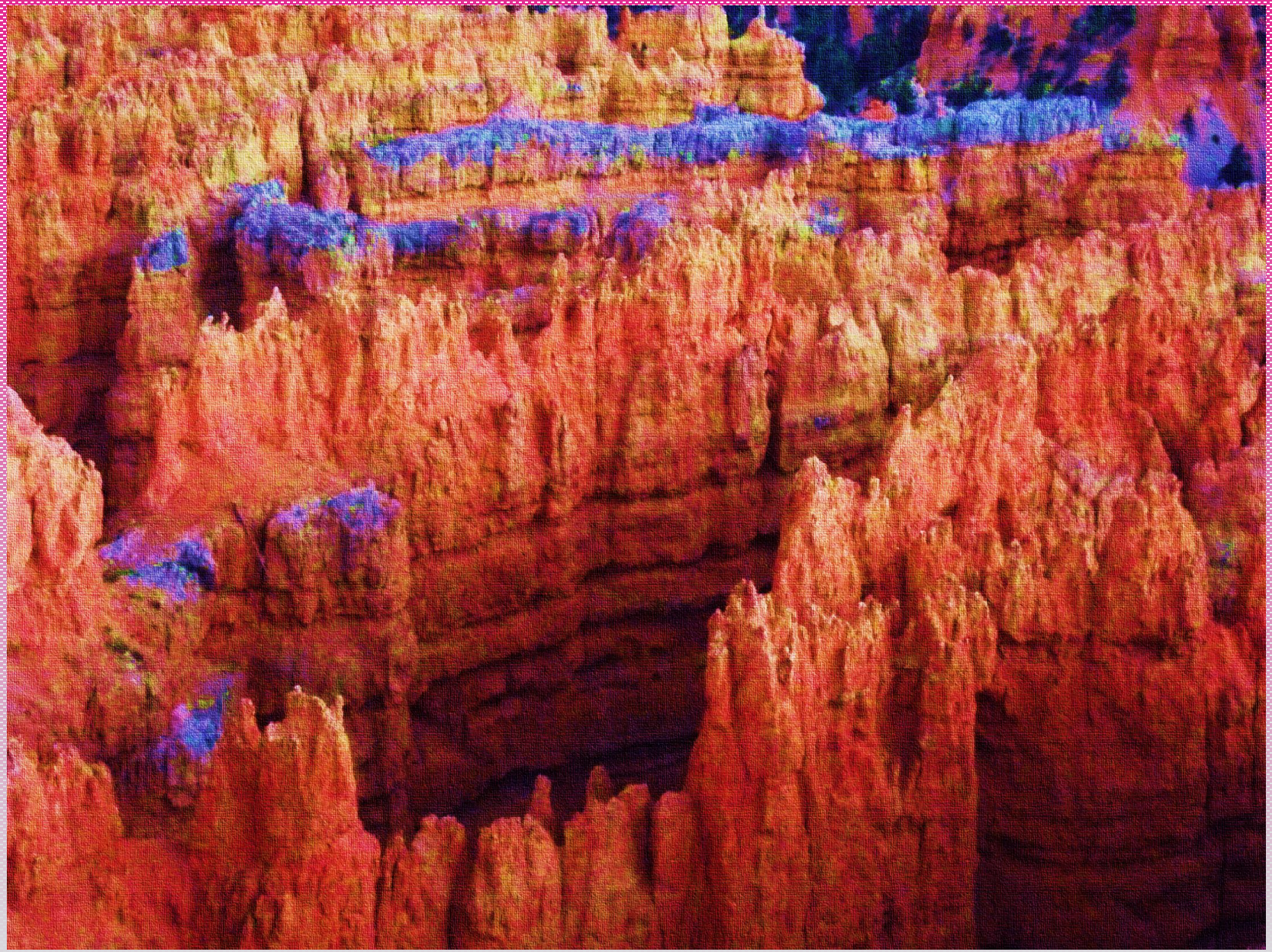
Bryce Canyon is actually not a canyon, but an agglomeration of gigant natural amphitheaters, fluted walls and sculptured pinnacles.

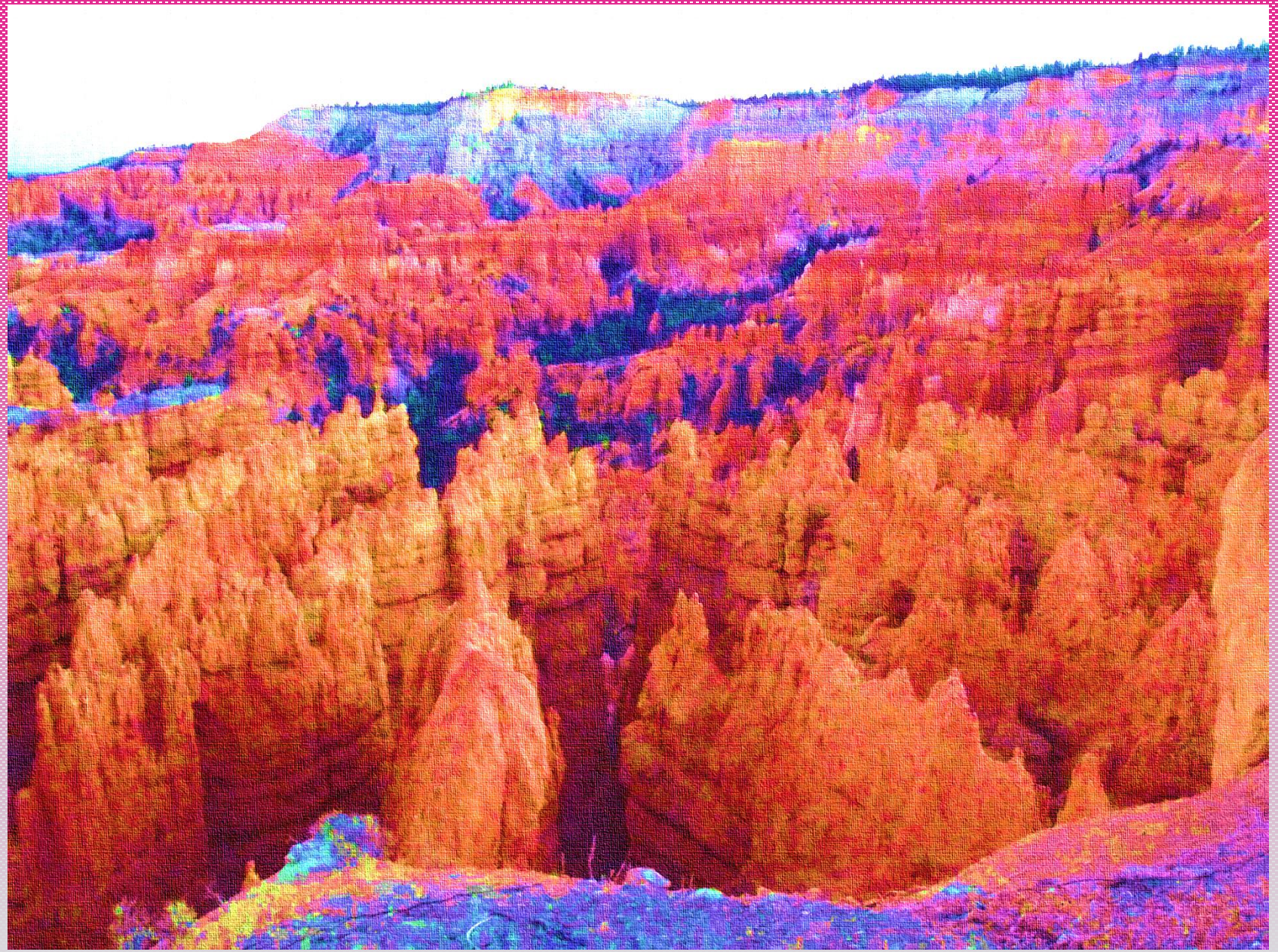
The Paria River and its tributaries continuously carve the plateau edges, and waters carrying gravel gully the steep slopes of Plateau; tall thin ridges (fins) emerge, and further erode into hoodoos.



The west of the Park consists in heavily forested lands (cca. 9,000 feet high); towards Paria Valley, to the east, the carved breaks drop 2,000 feet.

Random fragments of worked stone proves that early Native Americans (Anasazi and Fremont) have been in the Colorado Plateau region and near Bryce Canyon for about 12,000 years.





A Paiute Indian legend tells that the canyon's hoodoo rock formations were created by the trickster Coyote, who turned the gluttonous *To-when-an-ung-wa* ("Legend People") into stones.

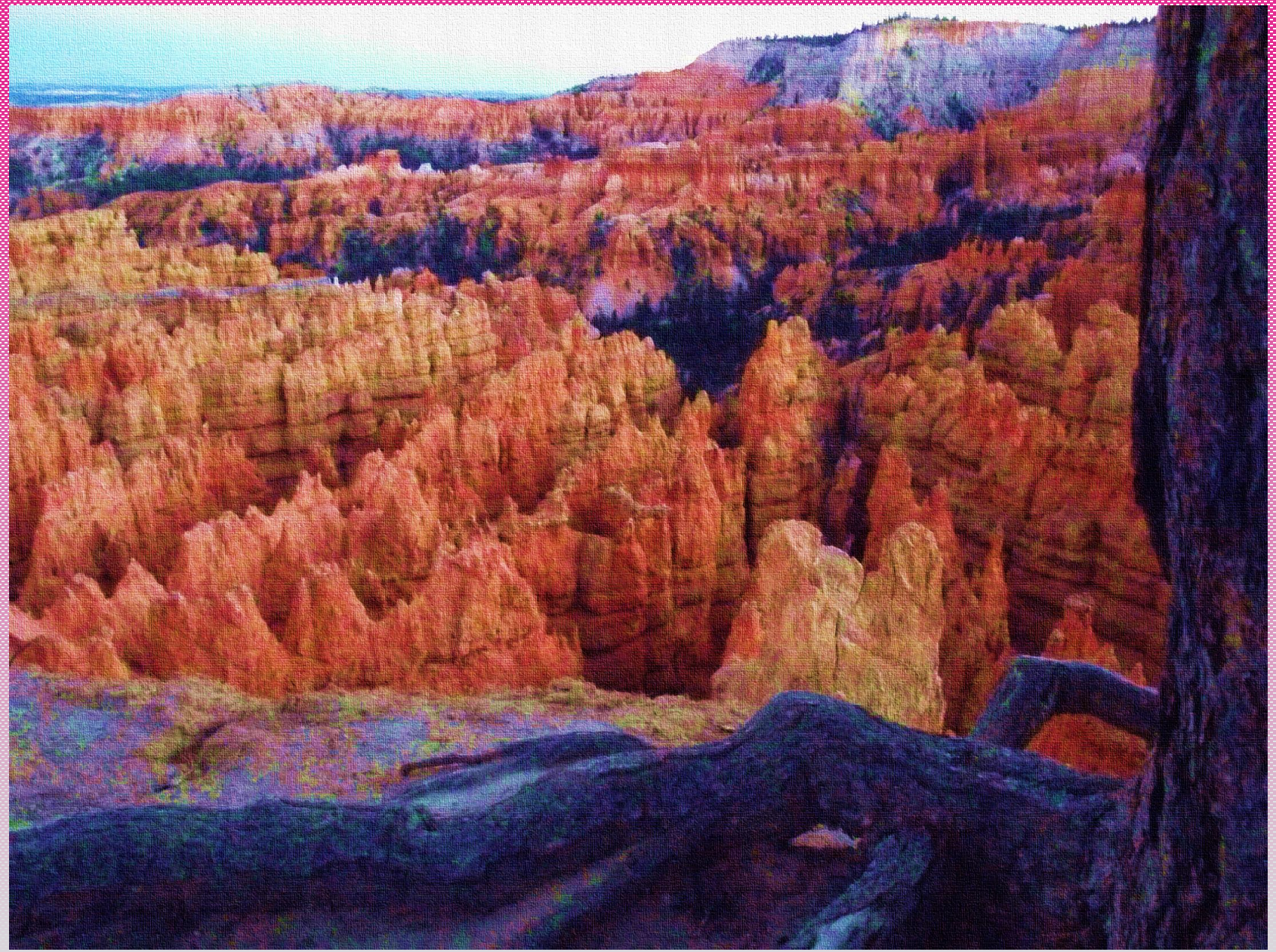
Some local toponyms derive from the Paiute language:
Paunsaugunt **= place or home of the beavers;**
Paria **= muddy water;**
Panguitch **= water or fish;**
Yovimpa **= pines.**

Paiutes people were still living in the area when John Wesley Powell and Capt. Clarence E. Dutton explored the region in 1870s.

The Paiutes were displaced by emissaries of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Church); the Mormons developed many small communities throughout Utah.

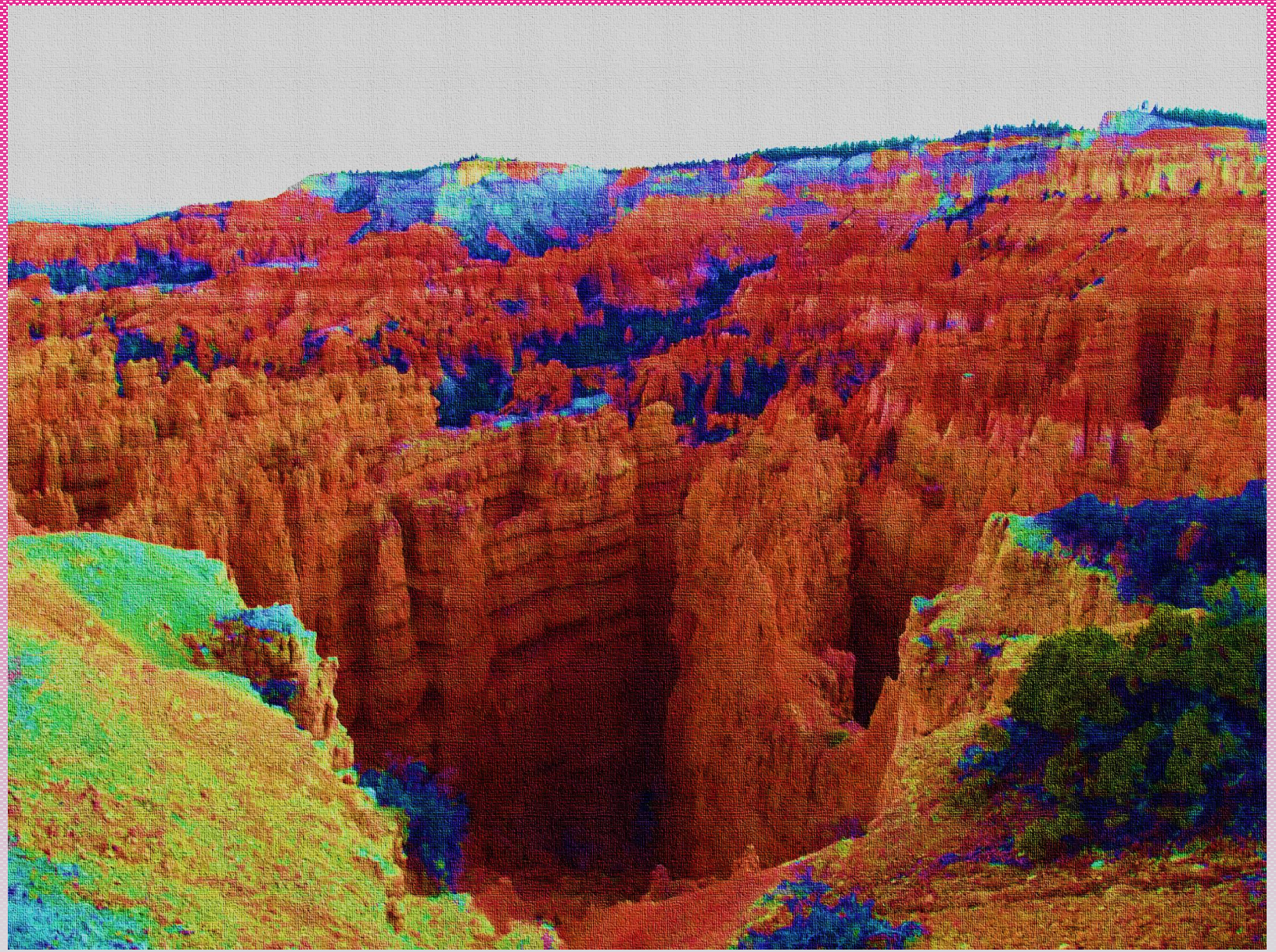
**One such Mormon
was Ebenezer Bryce,
who came to the Paria Valley
to live and harvest timber
from the plateau;
neighbors called the place
behind his home
Bryce's Canyon.**

Ebenezer Bryce, a ship's carpenter, born in Dunblane, in the Stirling area (Scotland), after converting his faith to Mormon Church, was disowned by his father, and consequently left Scotland for Utah at the age of seventeen.



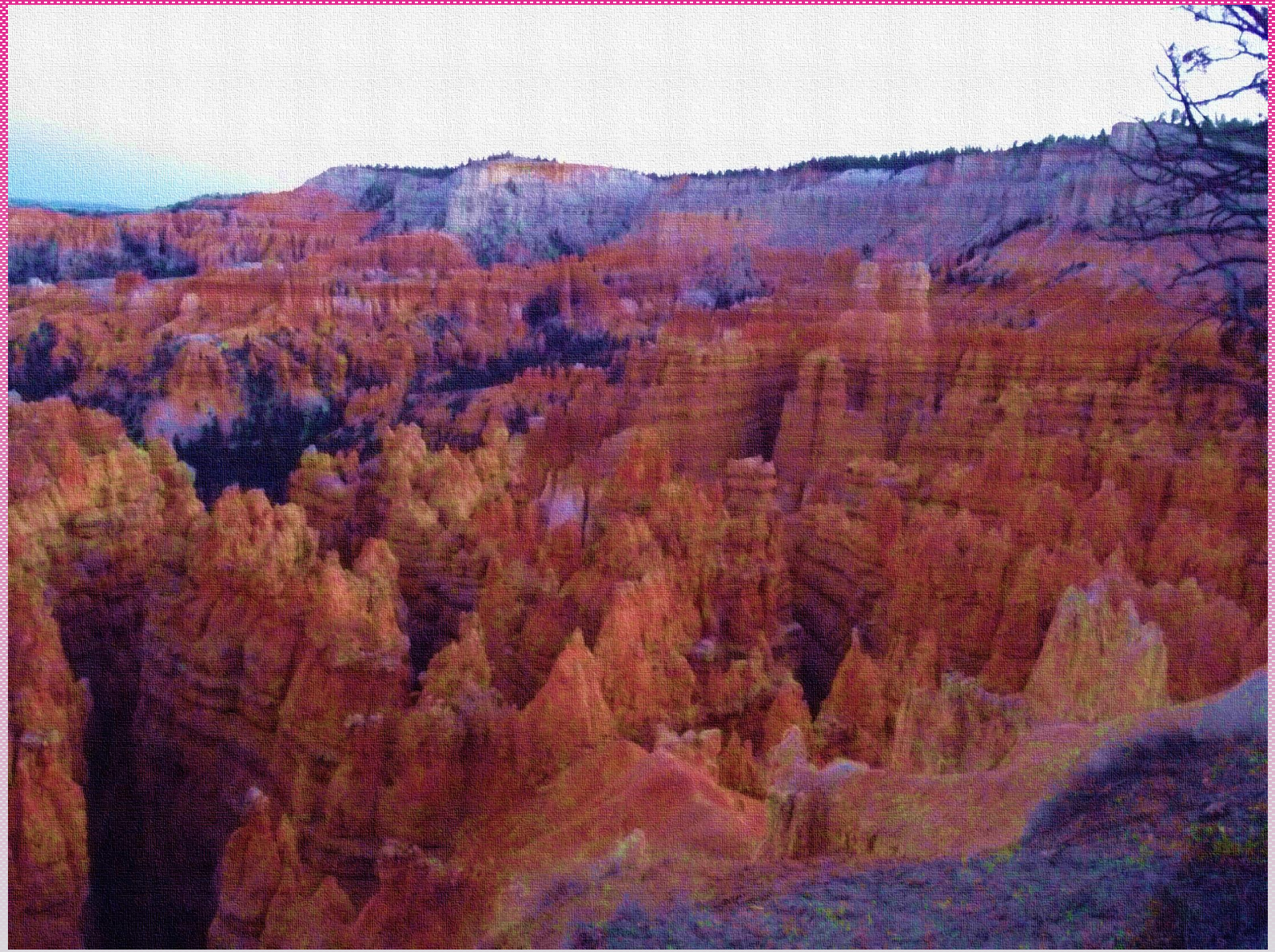
Bryce married Mary Park in Salt Lake City in 1854, and moved in Pine Valley, where he was responsible for building the Pine Valley Chapel in 1868, the oldest chapel still in use by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; the chapel is unique for the fact that it was built like an upside down ship.

Shortly after 1900, the first accommodations were built along the Paunsaugunt Plateau rim above Bryce's Canyon for the visitors coming to admire the colorful geologic view.



President Warren G. Harding proclaimed part of the area as Bryce Canyon National Monument under the Powell National Forest in 1923; in 1928, the name of the new park was changed to Bryce Canyon National Park.

President Herbert Hoover annexed to the park an adjoining area in 1931, and in 1942 an additional 635 acres (257 ha) was added, which brought the park's total area to the current figure of 35,835 acres (14,502 ha).

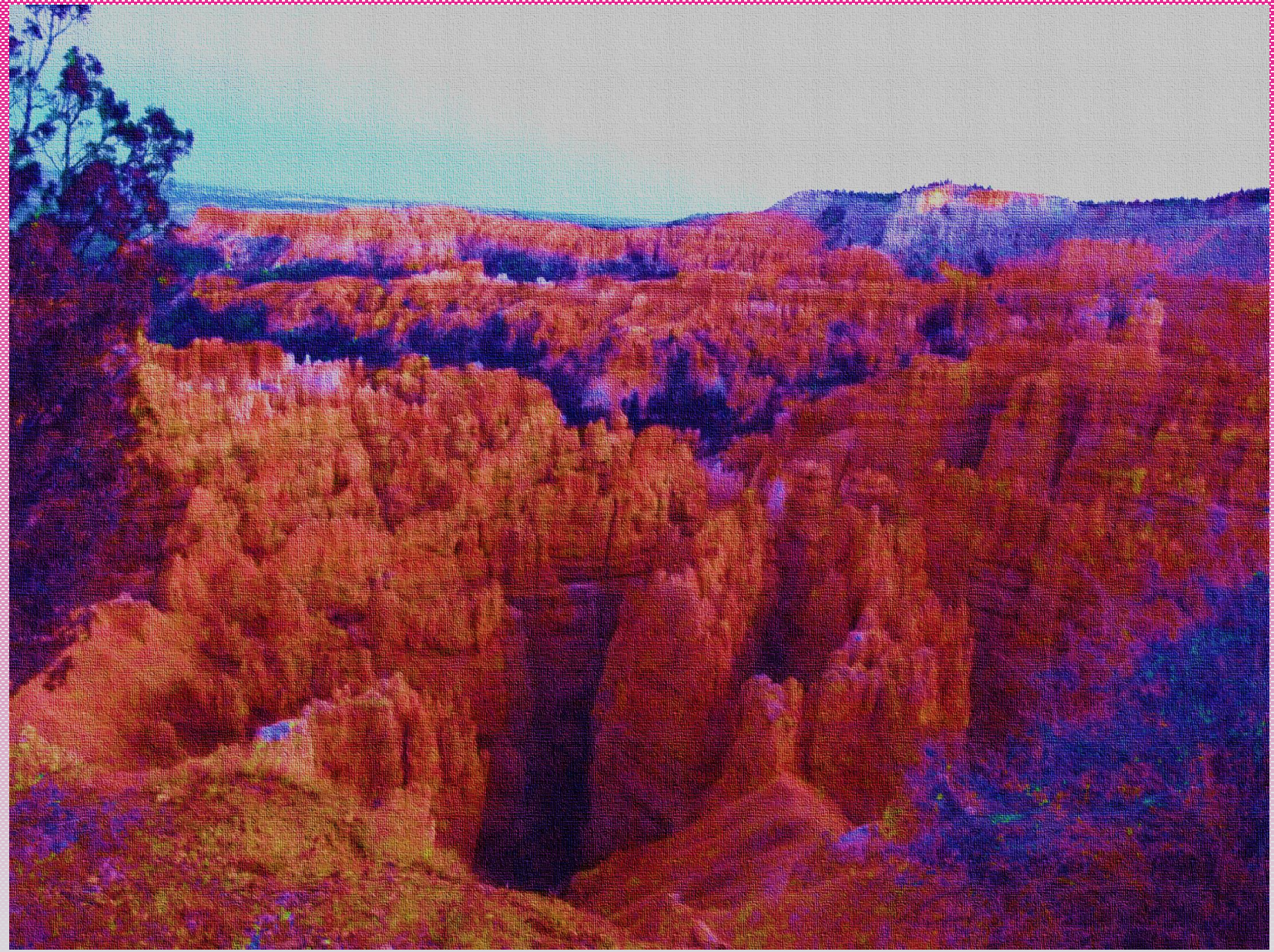


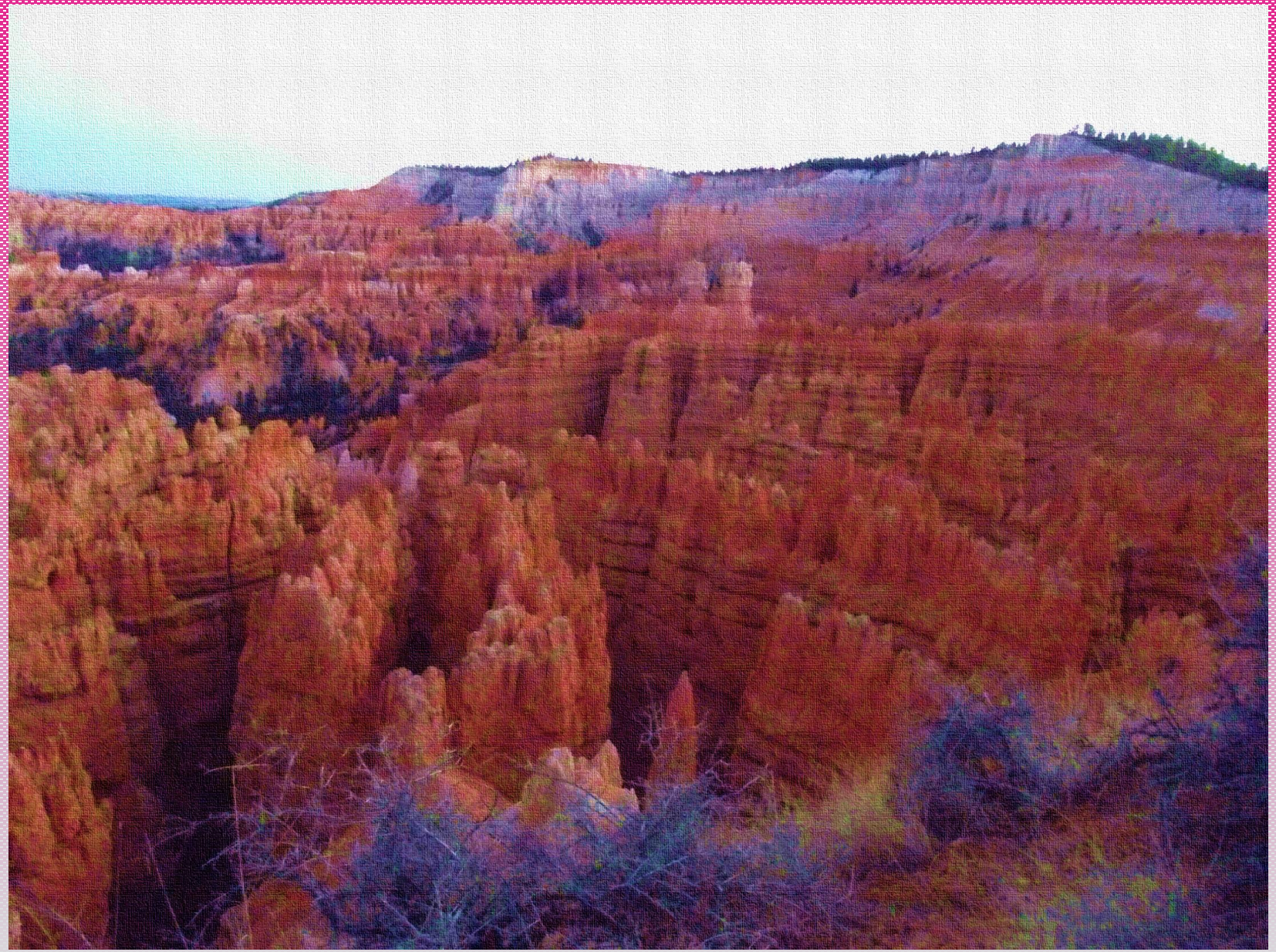
Bryce Canyon Natural History Association (BCNHA) is a non-profit organization created in 1961 to support the educational and scientific activities of the Bryce Canyon National Park.

More than 400 native plant species live in the park; the forests and meadows here provide a habitat to diverse animal life including foxes, badgers, porcupines, elk, black bears, woodpeckers, and many more.

Mule deer are the most common mammals in the park, but three wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act live here as well: the Utah prairie dog, the California condor, and the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Reptiles found in the park include the rattlesnake, the striped whipsnake, the short-horned lizard, the side-blotched lizard; and amphibians include the tiger salamander.



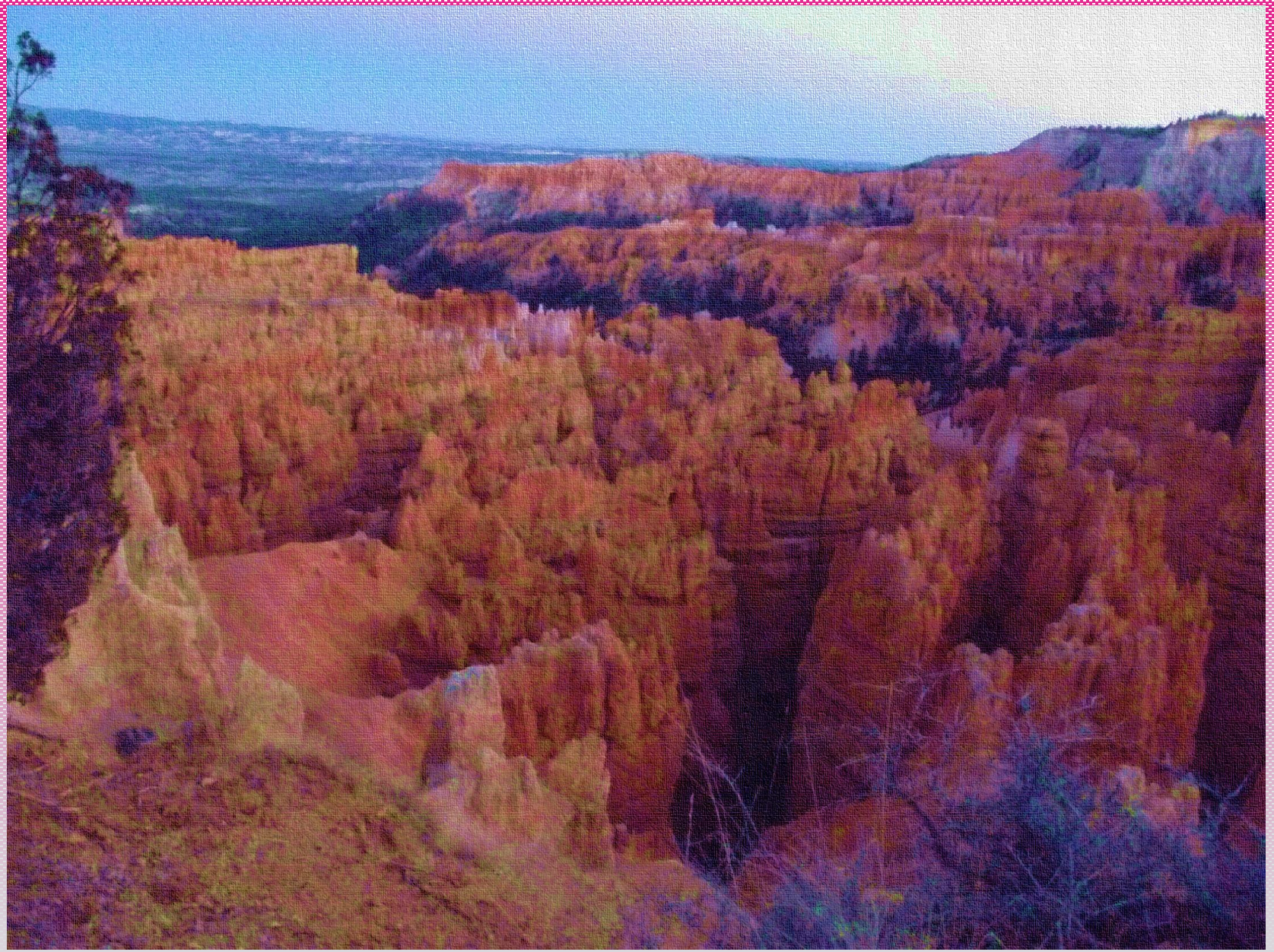


The scenic drive for visitors provides access to 13 viewpoints over the amphitheaters; Bryce Canyon has eight marked and maintained hiking trails; any of which can be hiked in less than a day (round trip time).

Easy to moderate hikes:
Mossy Cave,
Rim Trail,
Bristlecone Loop,
Queens Garden.

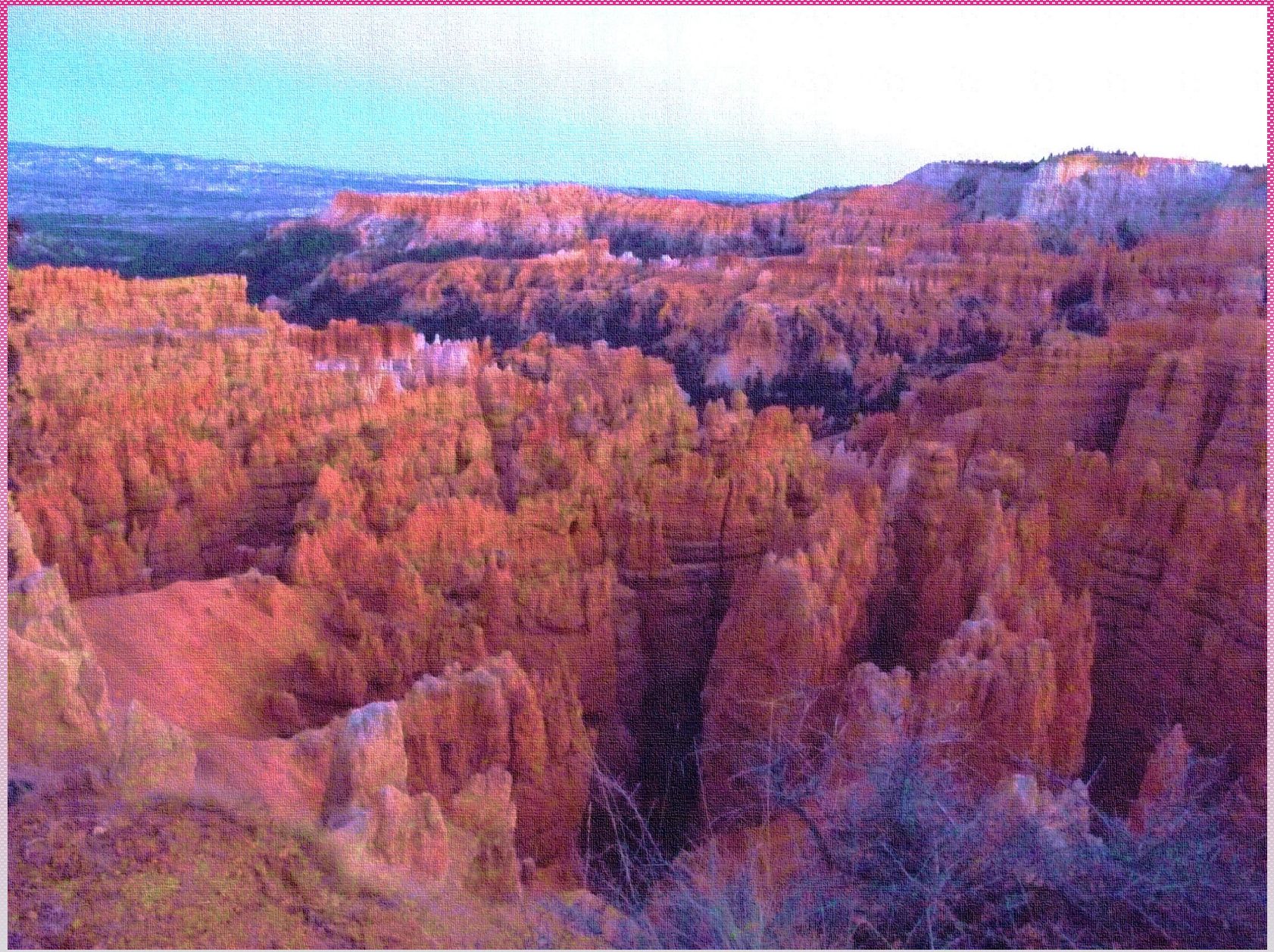
Moderate hikes:
Navajo Loop,
Tower Bridge.

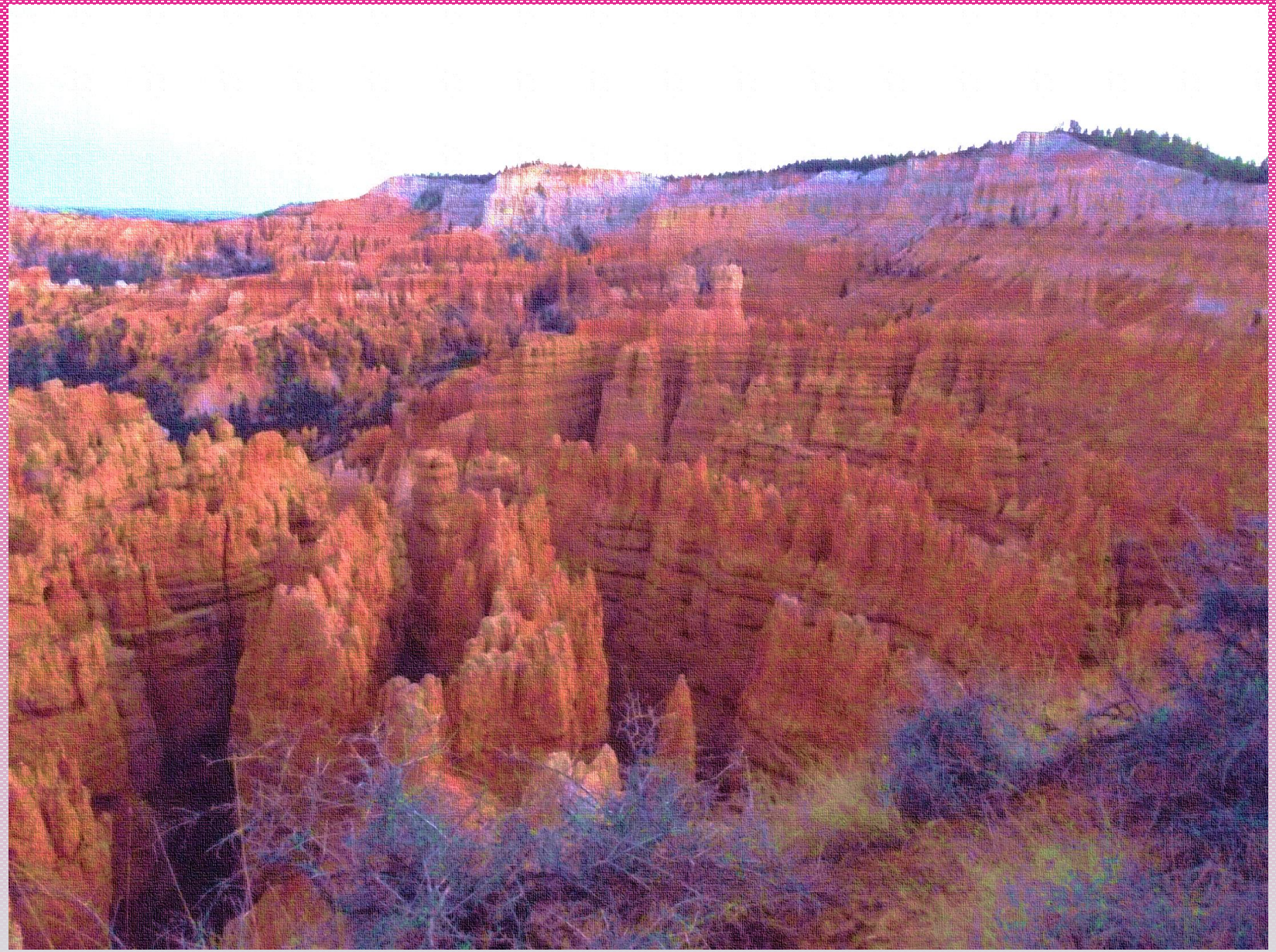
Strenuous hikes
Fairyland Loop,
Peekaboo Loop.



Skiing trails as well are available off of Fairyland, Paria, and Rim trails in the park, a total of 10 miles (16 km); 20 miles (32 km) of connecting ski trails are in nearby Dixie National Forest and Ruby's Inn.

Here, there is a 7.4 magnitude night sky, one of the darkest in North America, therefore cca. 7,500 stars appears to the eye of the stargazers (fewer than 2,000 stars can be seen in most places).



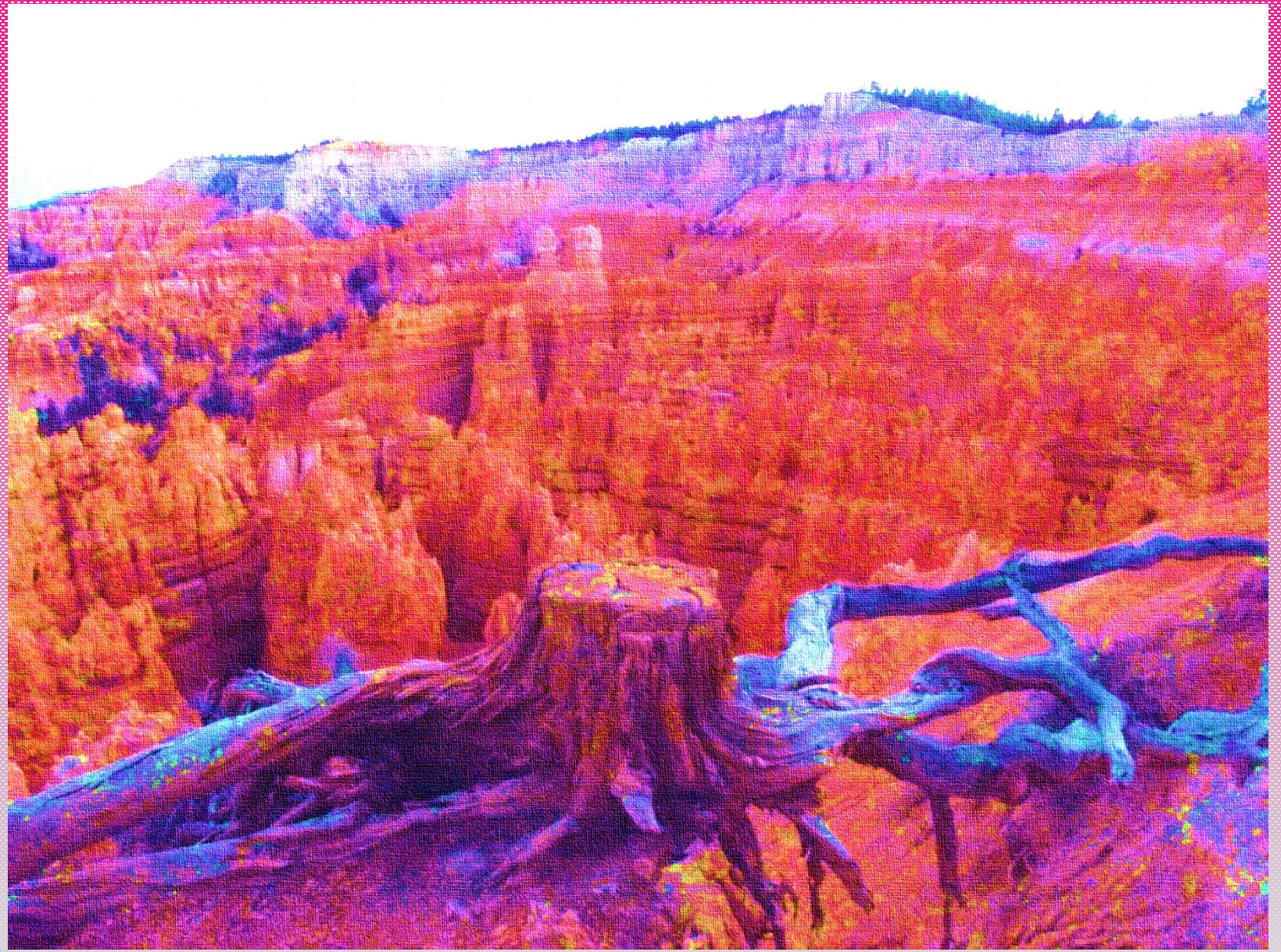


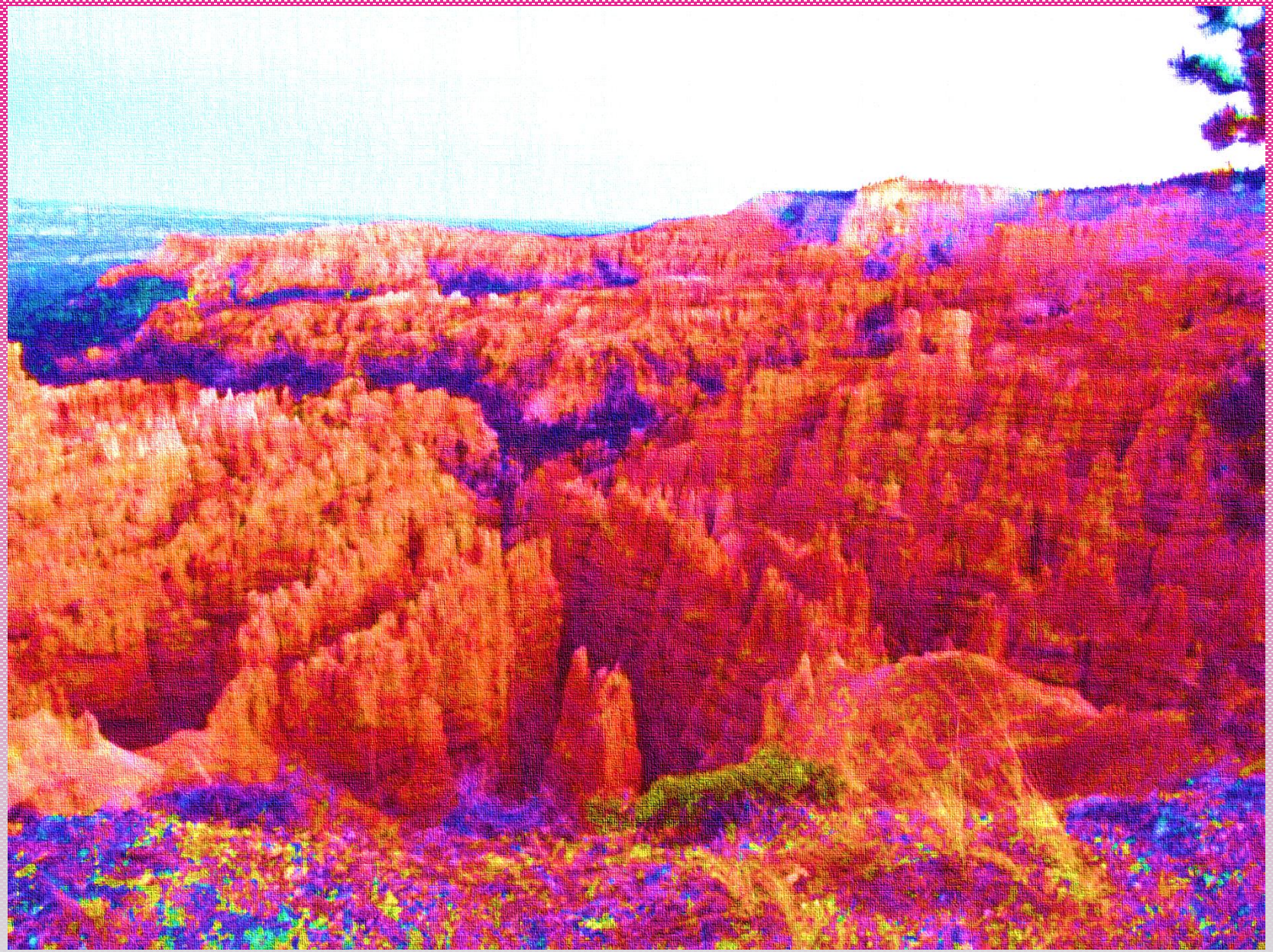
The Bryce Canyon Astronomy Festival is held yearly in June, and attracts thousands of visitors; the Asteroid 49272 was named after this national park.

The Park has a continental climate with warm, dry summers; the weather here is cooler, and the park receives more precipitation: a total of 15 to 18 inches (380 to 460 mm) per year.

There is also a Christmas Bird Count tradition, an yearly event administered by the National Audubon Society; several routes are available for birders from strenuous hikes to easy drives; counting winter birds has become a family tradition for many.

Bryce Canyon's Geology Festival (GeoFest) is scheduled every year in July, with guided hikes, family-friendly geology programs, bus tours with a geologist, evening programs with special guest speakers, as well as exhibits and family oriented activities at the visitor center.

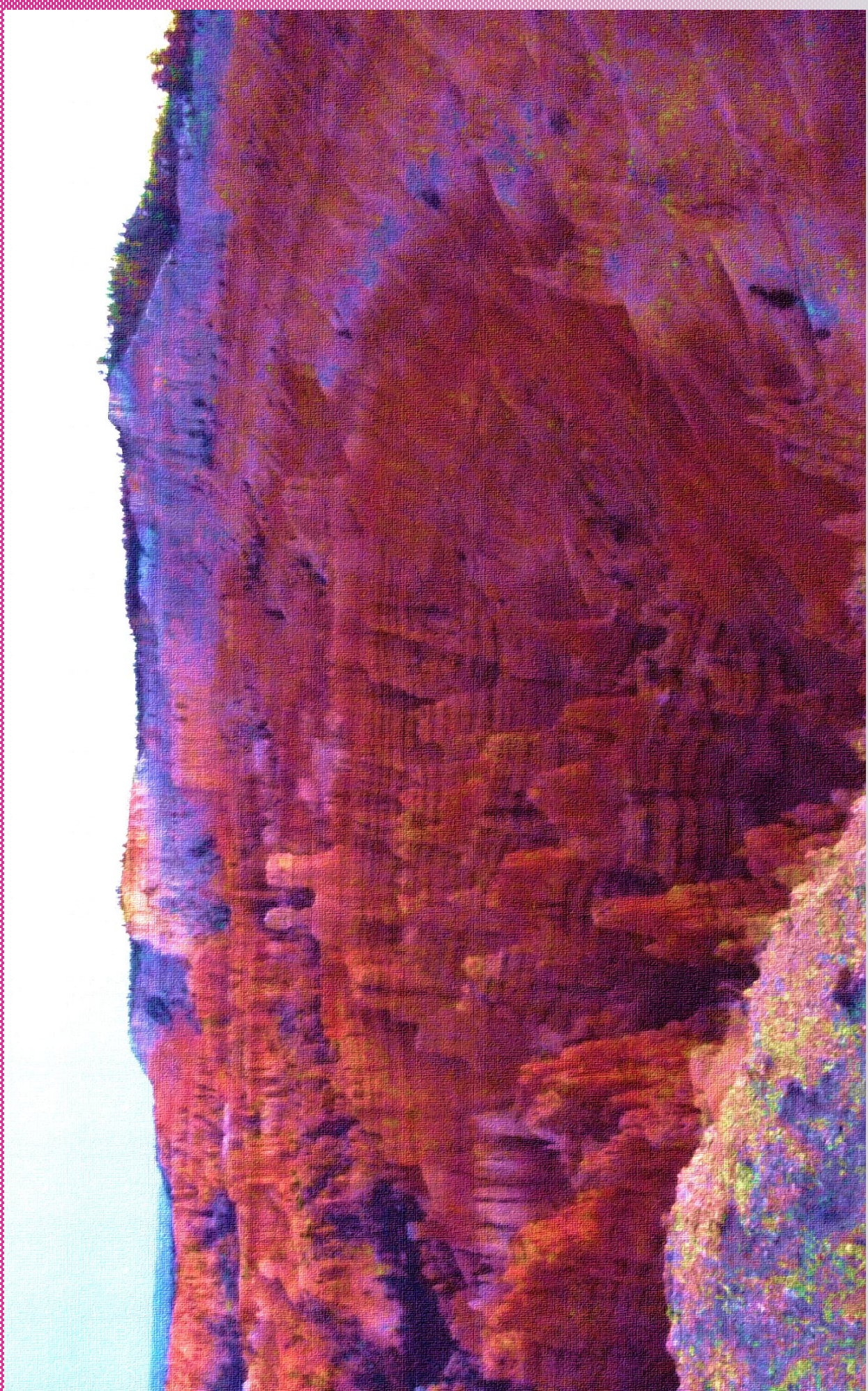




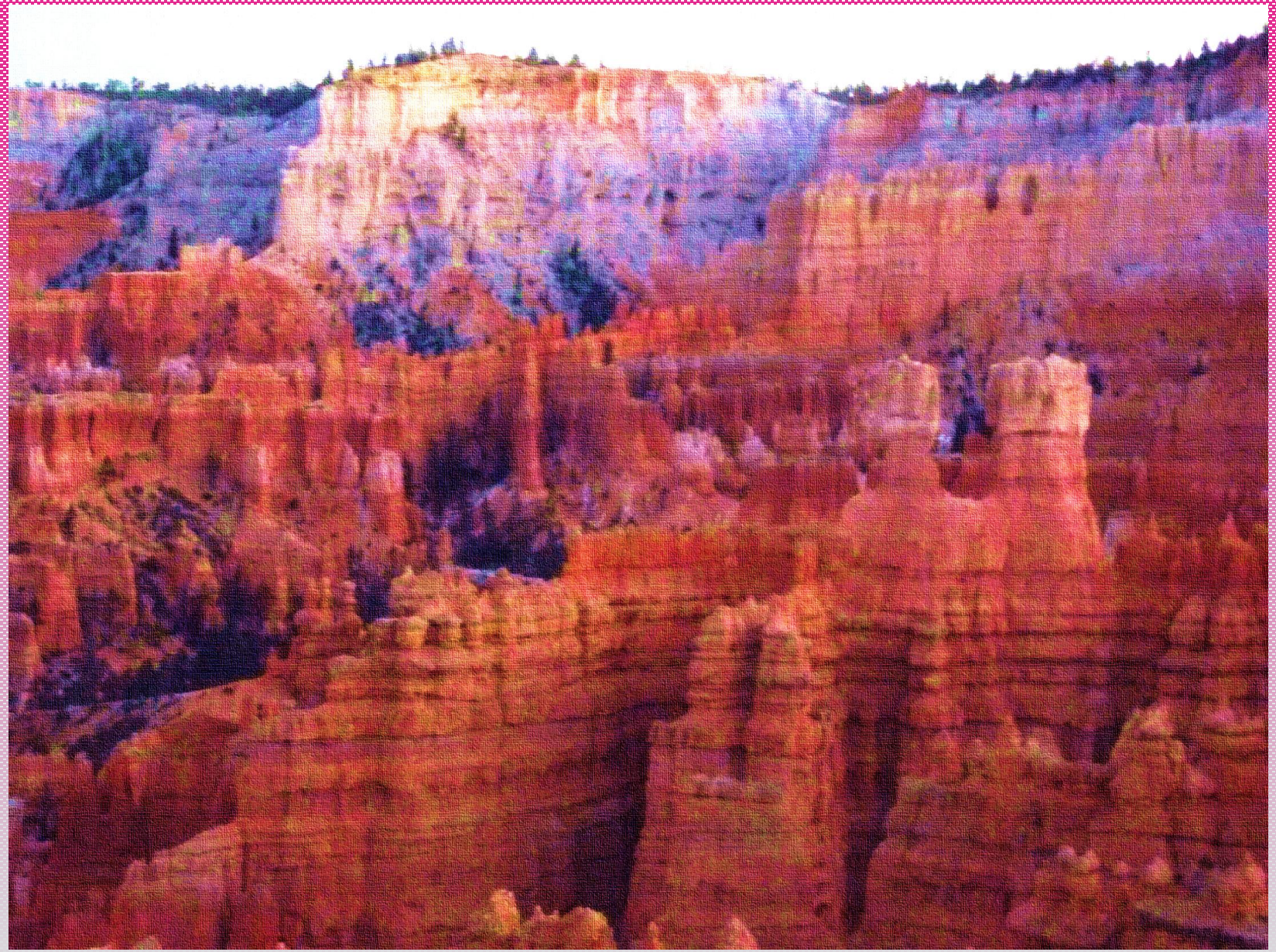
Adjacent to Bryce Canyon National Park, there is the town of Bryce Canyon City, sometimes shown as Bryce on maps, formerly known as Ruby's Inn, officially incorporated on July 23, 2007, with a population of 198 at the 2010 census.

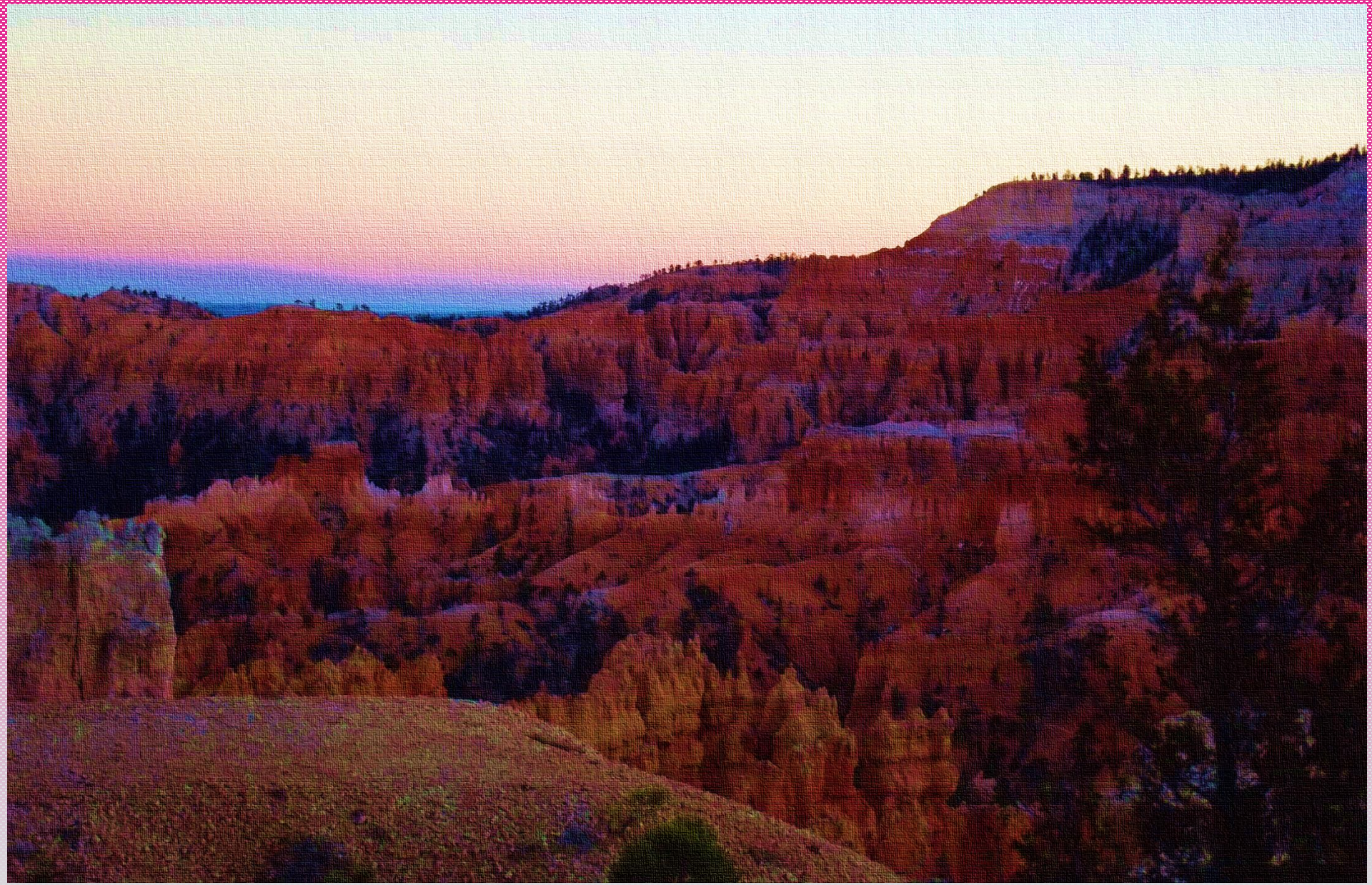
Reuben C. Syrett built a lodge and cabins at this location in 1916; the business grew along with the park's popularity, and Ruby's Inn became an important junction, which developed into a small community; Syrett donated land for construction of a road (now Utah State Route 63).

Ebenezer Bryce described his namesake canyon as a "helluva place to lose a cow."

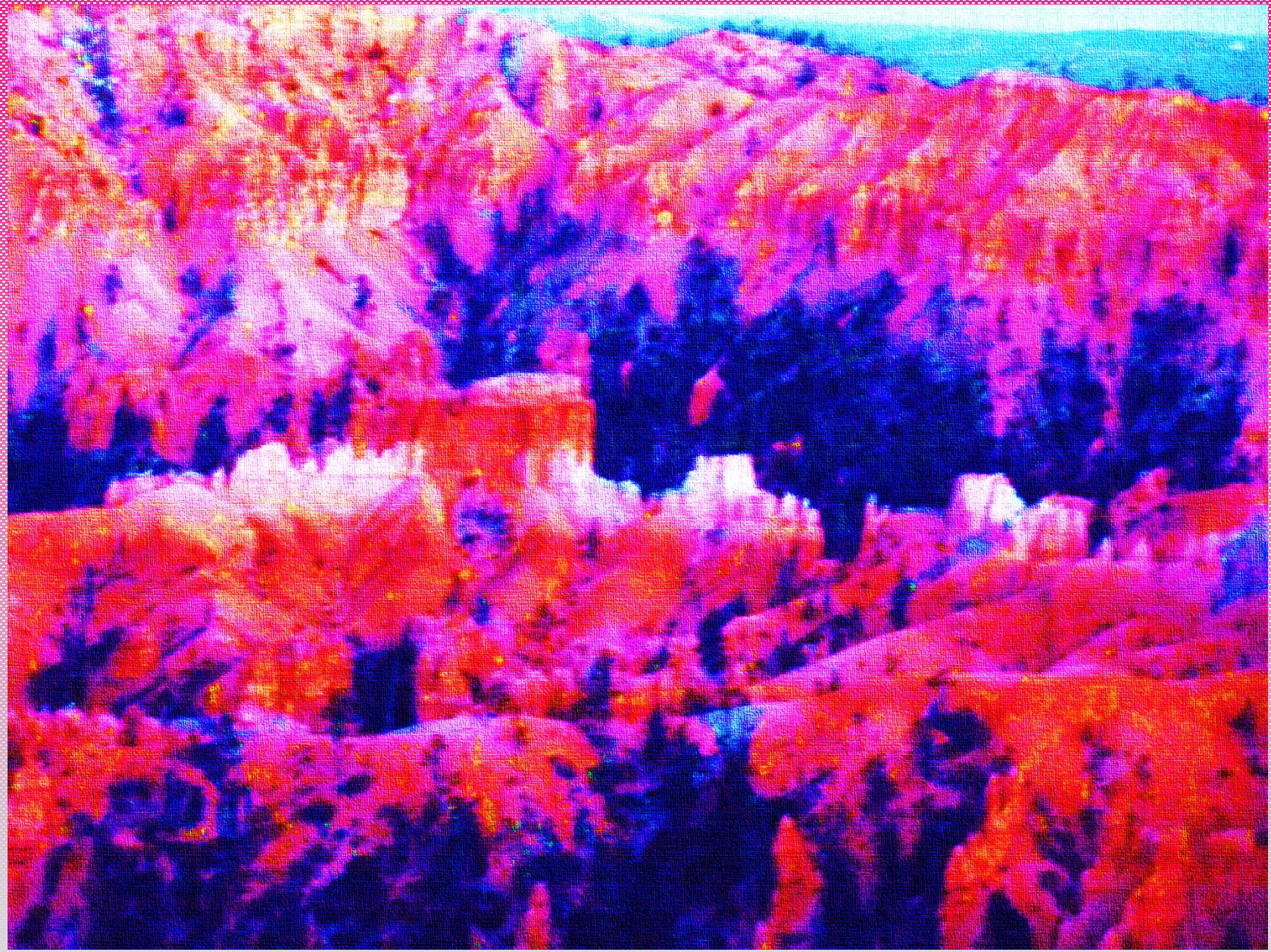


Trail riders in this area can penetrate into the heart of the Bryce Canyon amphitheater, follow the tracks of Butch Cassidy and other outlaw through scenic Red Canyon, or explore miles of remote country on top the Paunsaguant Plateau.

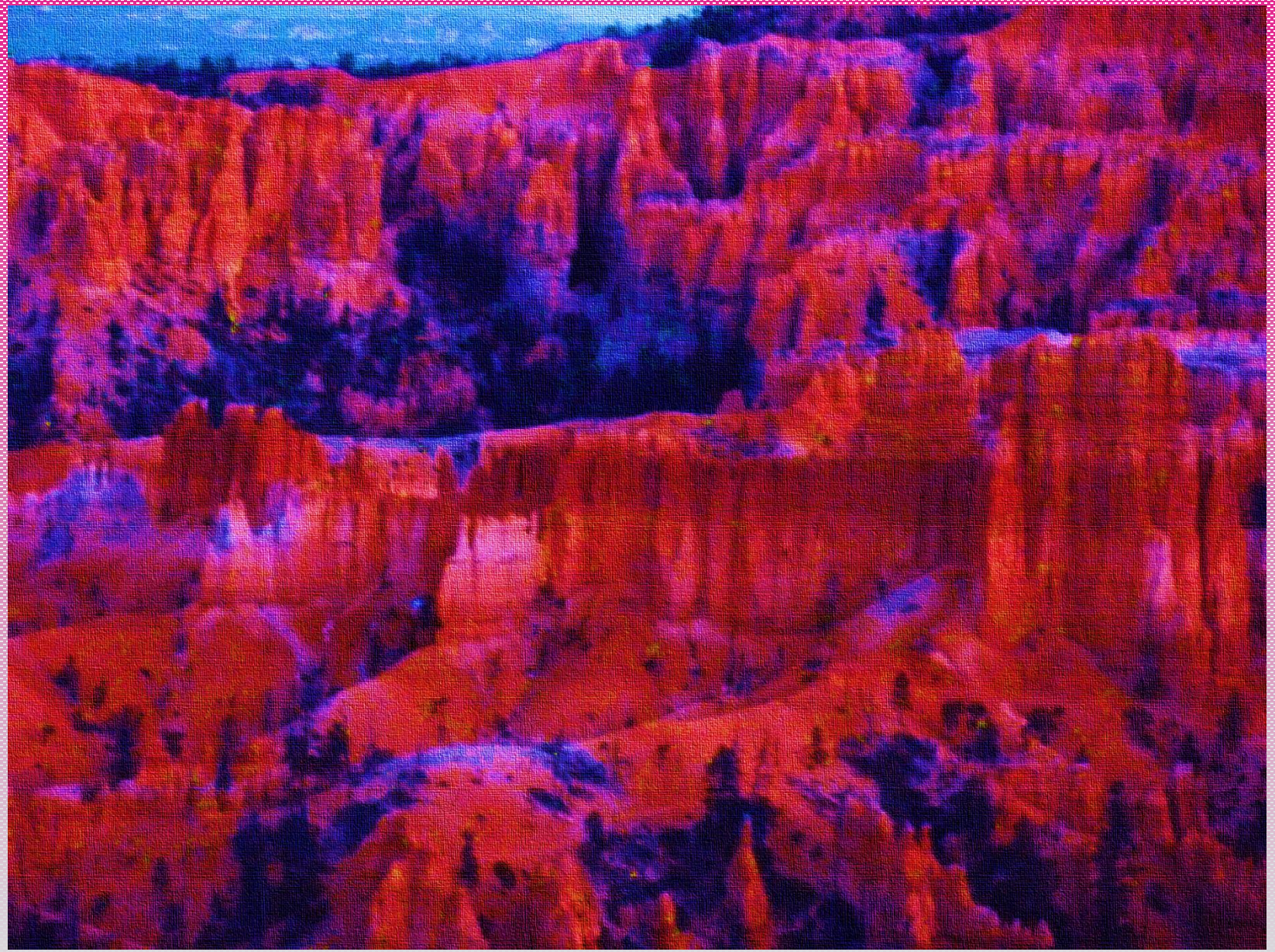




Rainbow Point is the highest part of the park at 9,105 feet (2,775 m), found at the end of the 18-mile (29 km) scenic drive.

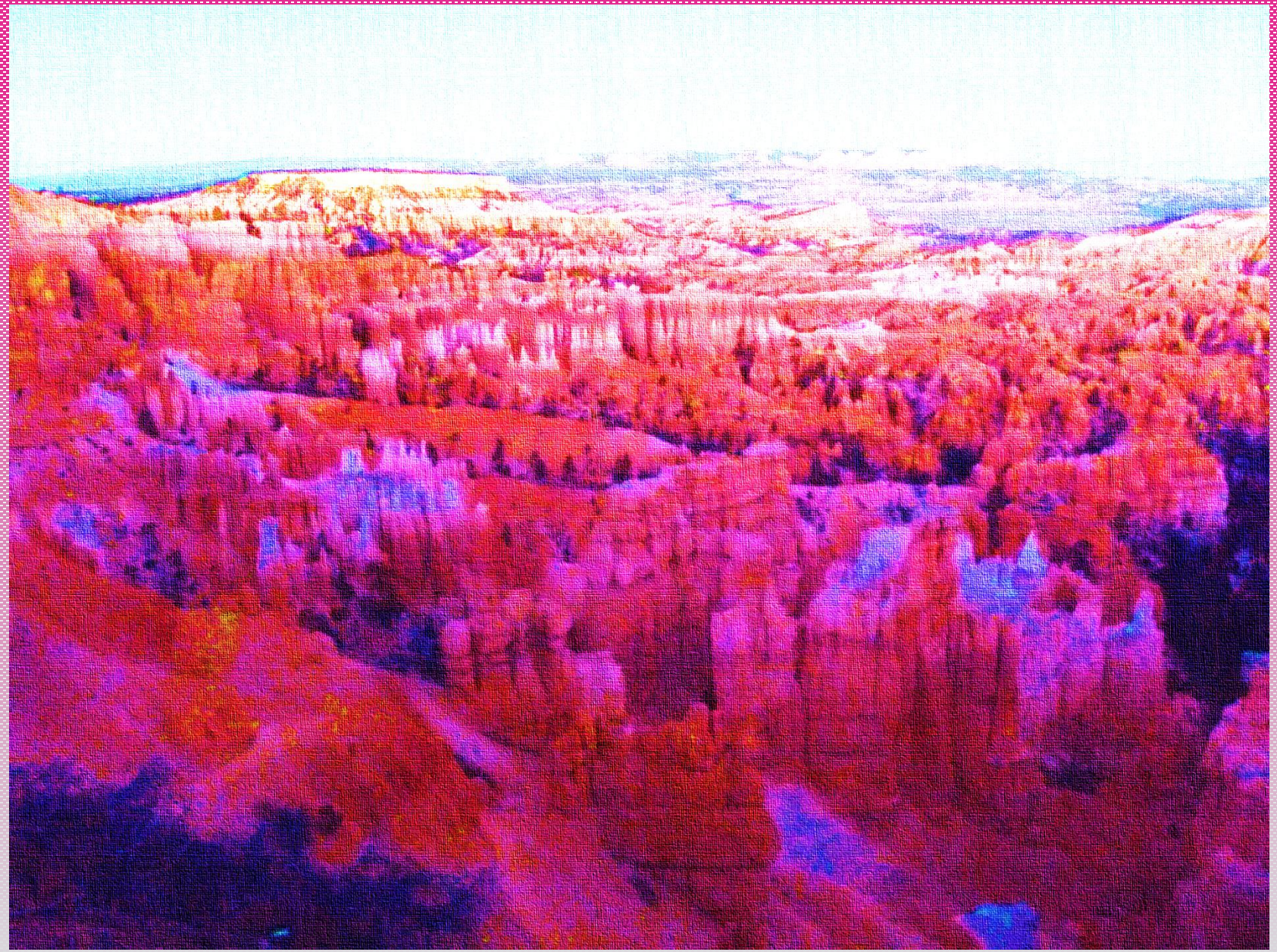


Aquarius Plateau, Bryce Amphitheater, Henry Mountains, Vermilion Cliffs and White Cliffs can be seen from Rainbow Point.



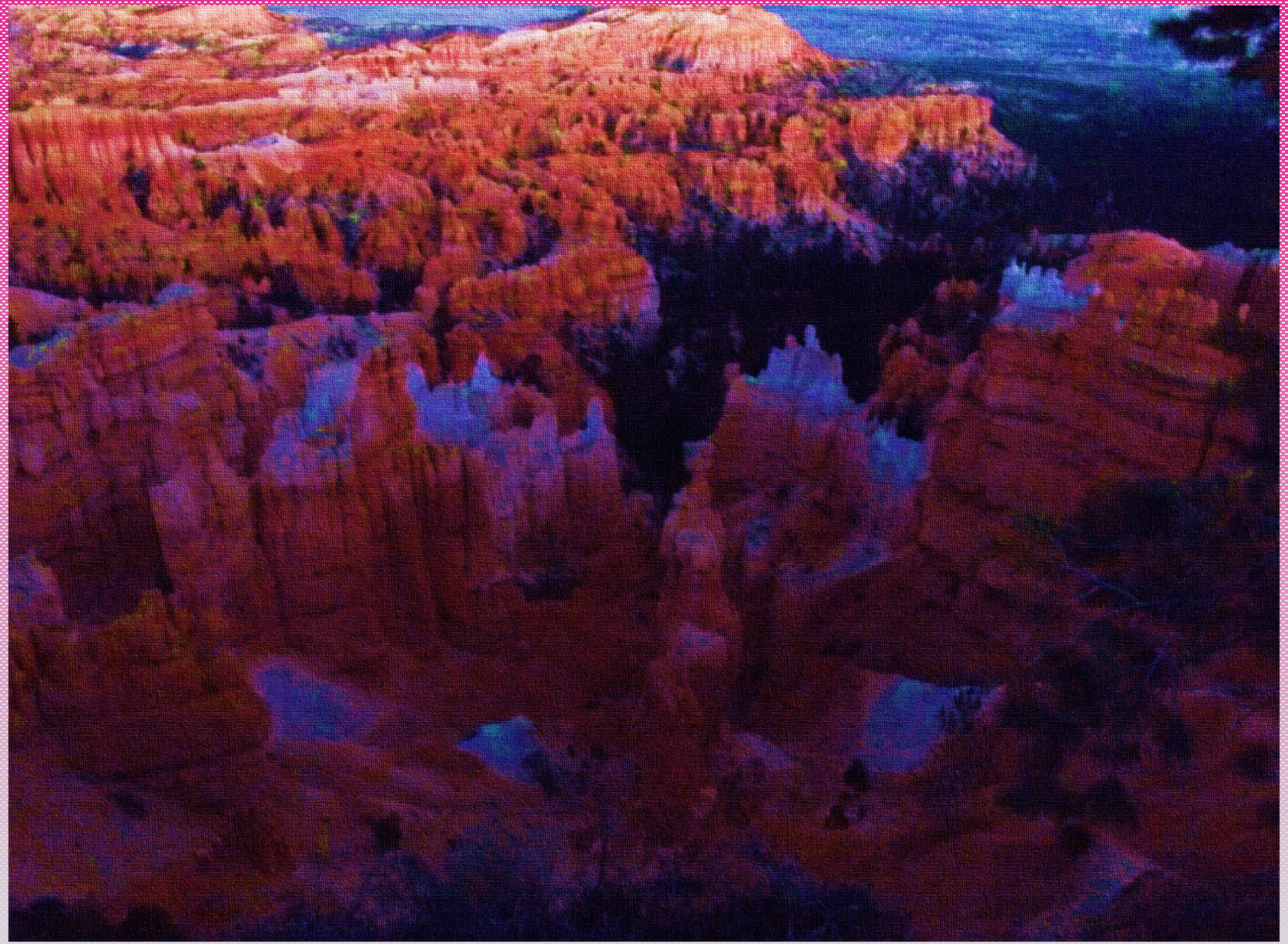
The Bryce Canyon shows a record of deposition spanning from Cretaceous period and Cenozoic era; the Dakota Sandstone and the Tropic Shale were deposited in the warm, shallow waters of the advancing and retreating Cretaceous Seaway; Claron Formation, from which the park's hoodoos are carved, was laid down as sediments in a system of cool streams and lakes that existed from 63 to about 40 million years ago.

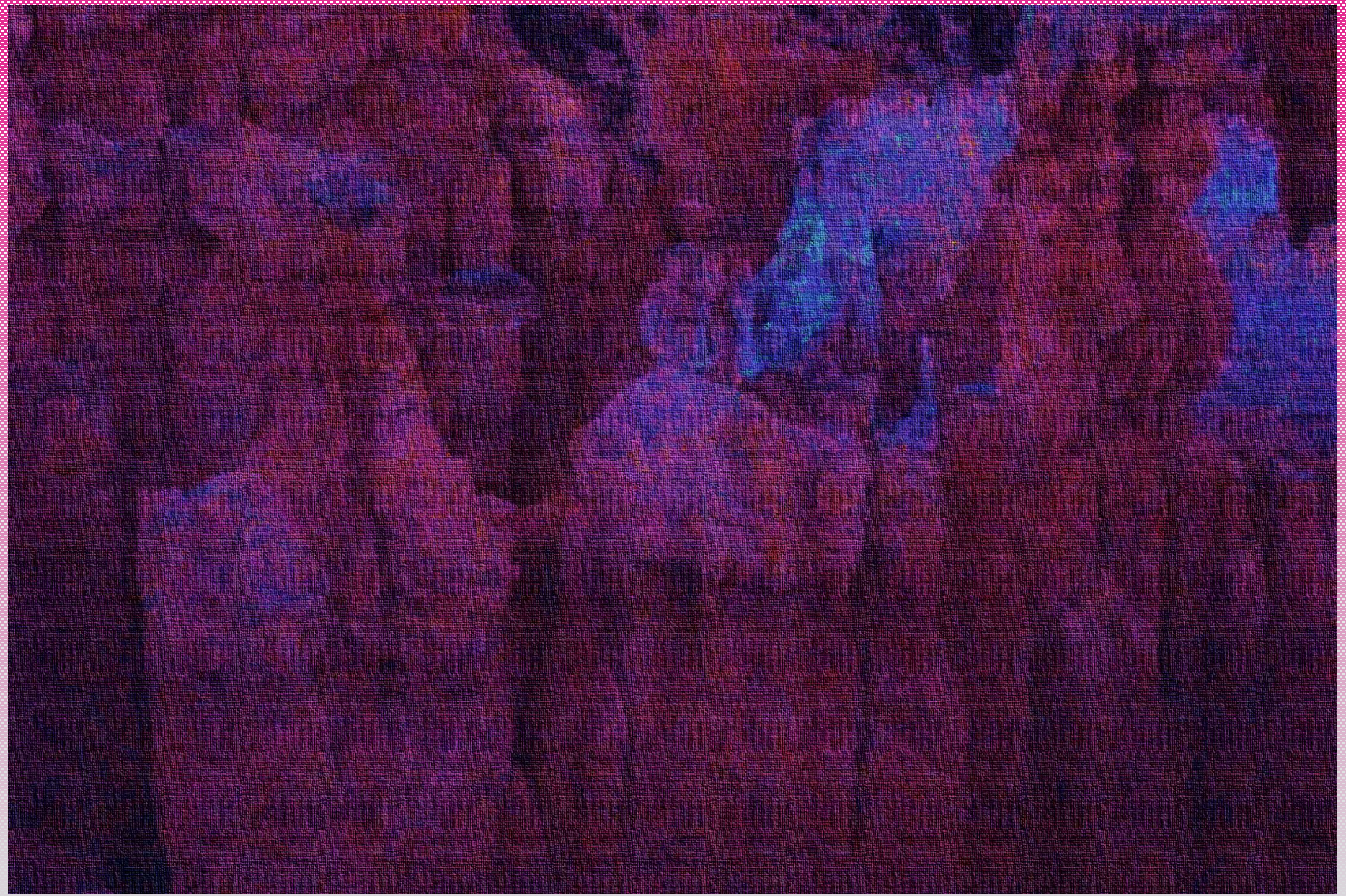
Grazing dates back to the settlement of the area in the 1870s; after declaring protected area, the Park undertook a process of gradual reduction of grazing.



From 1936, grazing was gradually eliminated from Bryce Canyon; around 1940, there were still over 2,300 sheep and 800 horses and cattle grazing in southern areas, but by 1946, sheep grazing was terminated, and in 1953, there were no more than 800 cattle grazing within the park boundaries.

Grazing was finally eliminated at Bryce Canyon in 1964, when a 13 mile sector of fence was completed to keep the cattle aut, and water from Riggs Springs was conducted thorugh pipes to an area outside the park to satisfy the water needs of local stockmen.



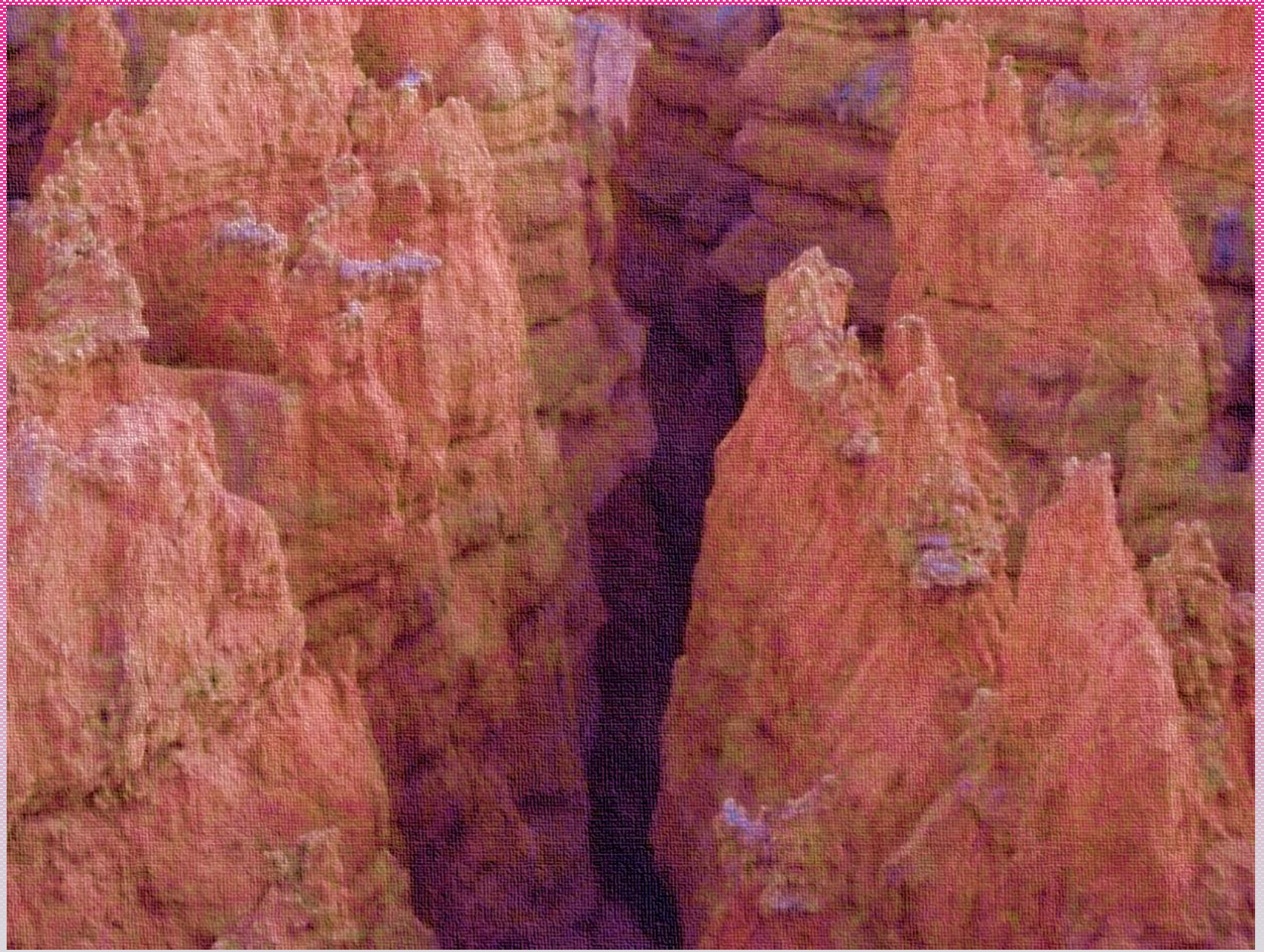


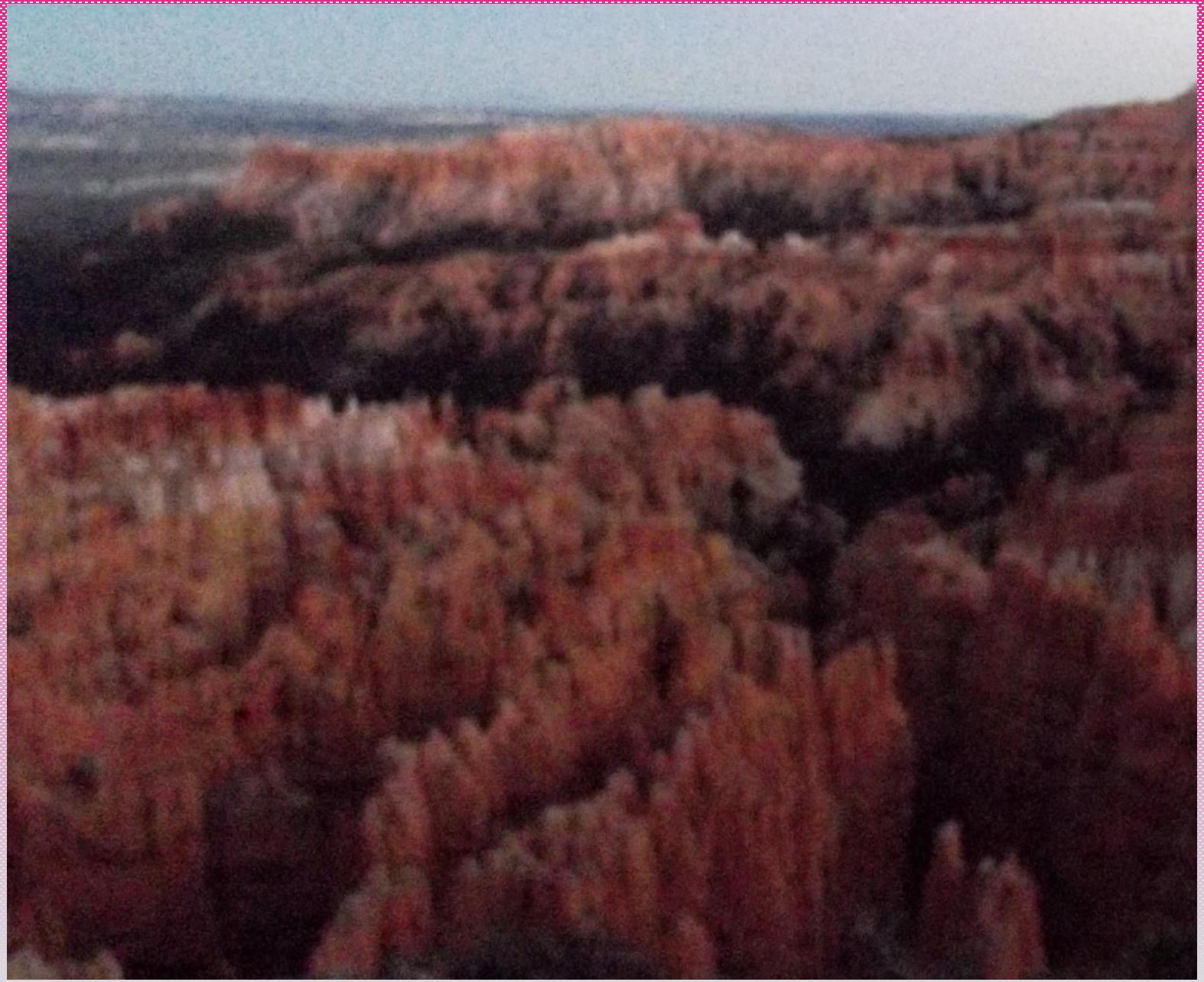
At Bryce, collecting of museum objects began in the 1930s; today, park's total collection consists in 70,134 objects, housed at Zion National Park along with collections from Cedar Breaks National Monument.

The museum collections speaks about important people and events in the park's history; preserve administrative and management reports and related documentation; and document the heritage of the park through drawings, photographs, so on.

The collection, including oral histories, photographs, blueprints, documents, and fossil resources, consists from 6,246 archeology items, 46,305 archival items, 7,410 history items, 20 art objects, 3,594 biology, 3,872 paleontology specimens, and 97 geological items.

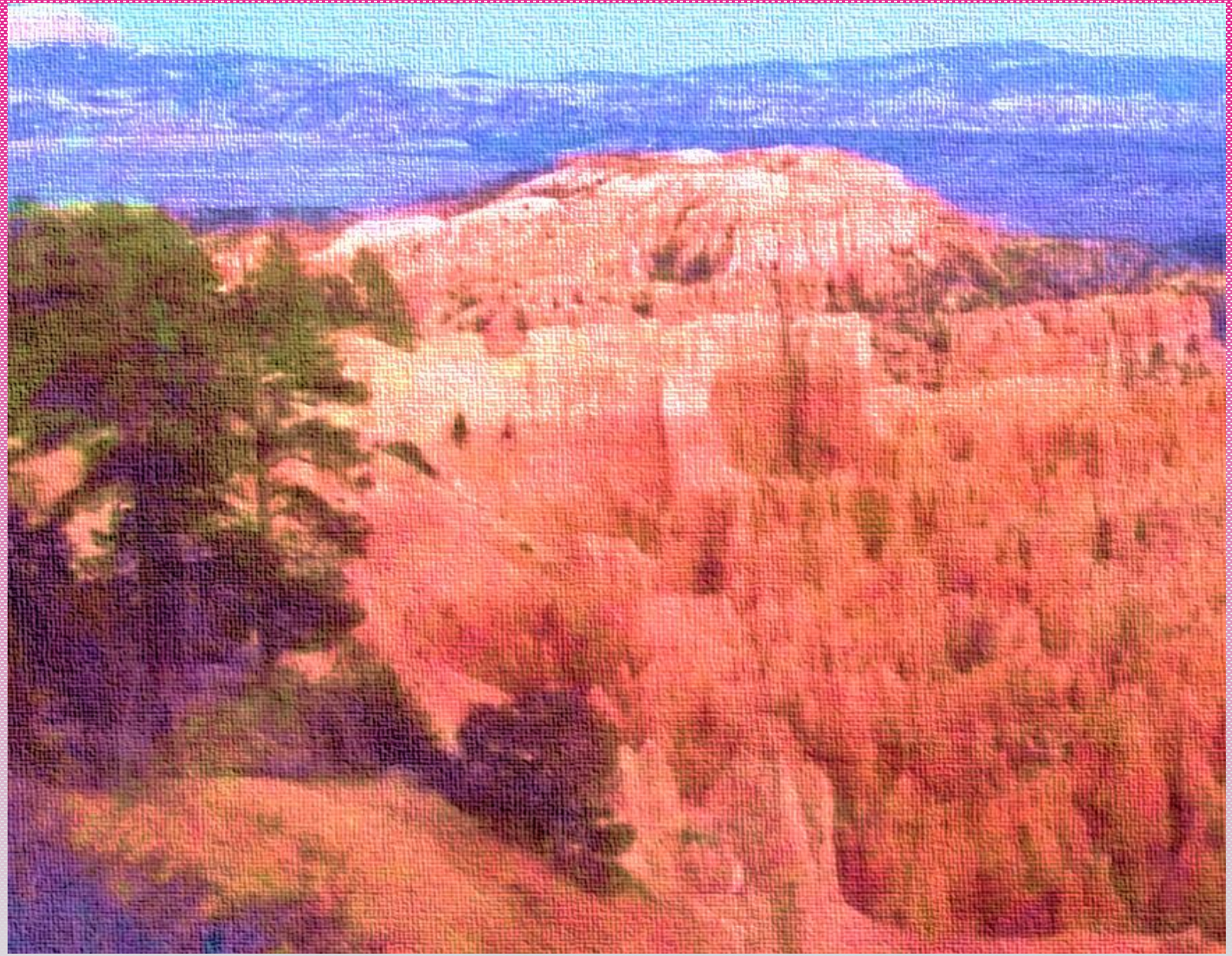
Volunteers come and return every year to participate in the National Park mission; there are volunteer opportunities at the Interpretive and Visitor Center, as Campground Host, or in the Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) team.

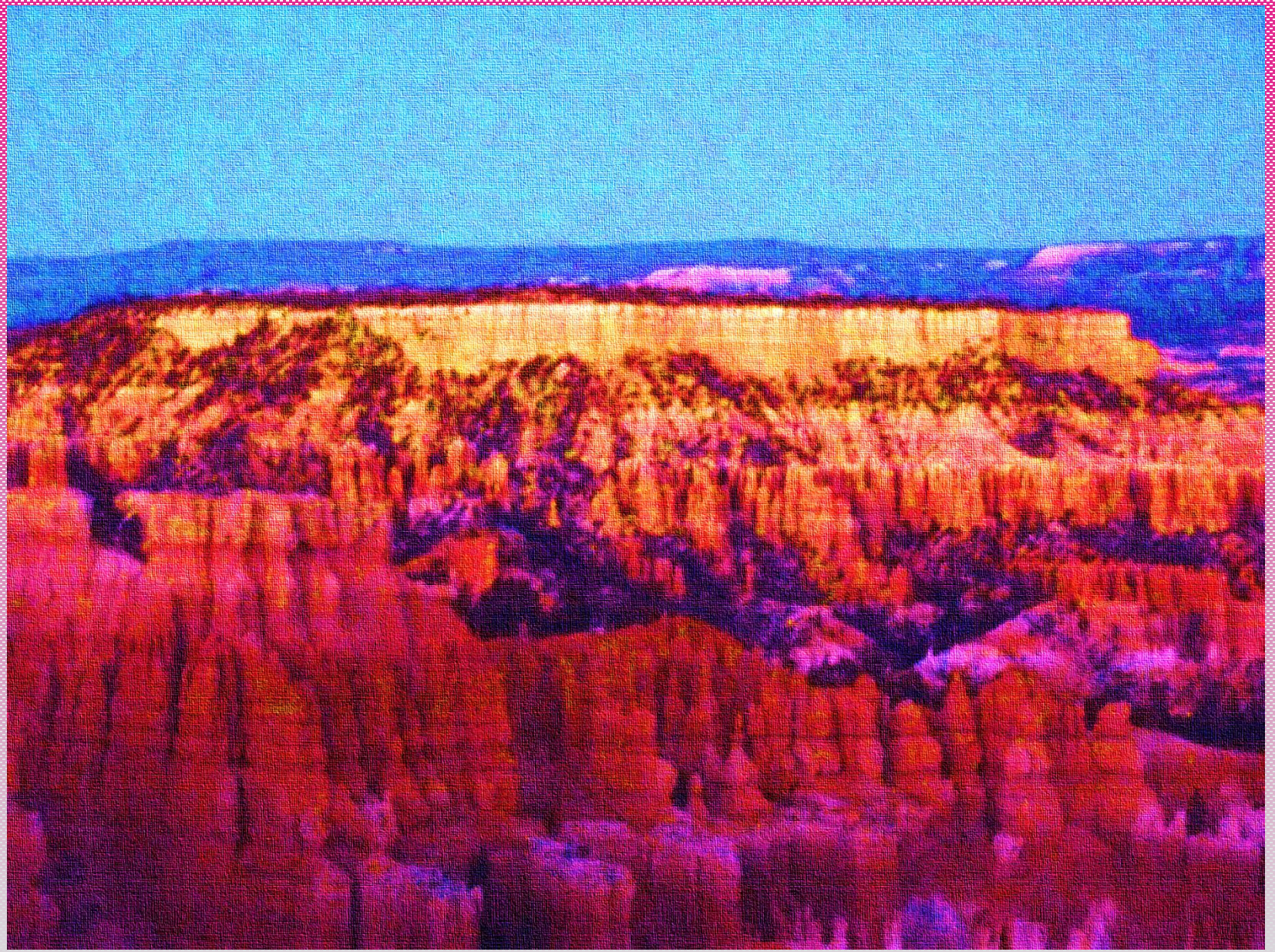




Bryce Canyon offers two options for ranger-led field trips in the park: *Discover Bryce Canyon*, and *Hike the Hoodoos*; and different activities for ranger-led field trip: *Art in the Park*, *Plant Identification*, *Prairie Dog Challenge*.

Bryce Canyon publishes a *Park Newspaper* in ten languages with valuable information available to visitors about the park and the surrounding area.

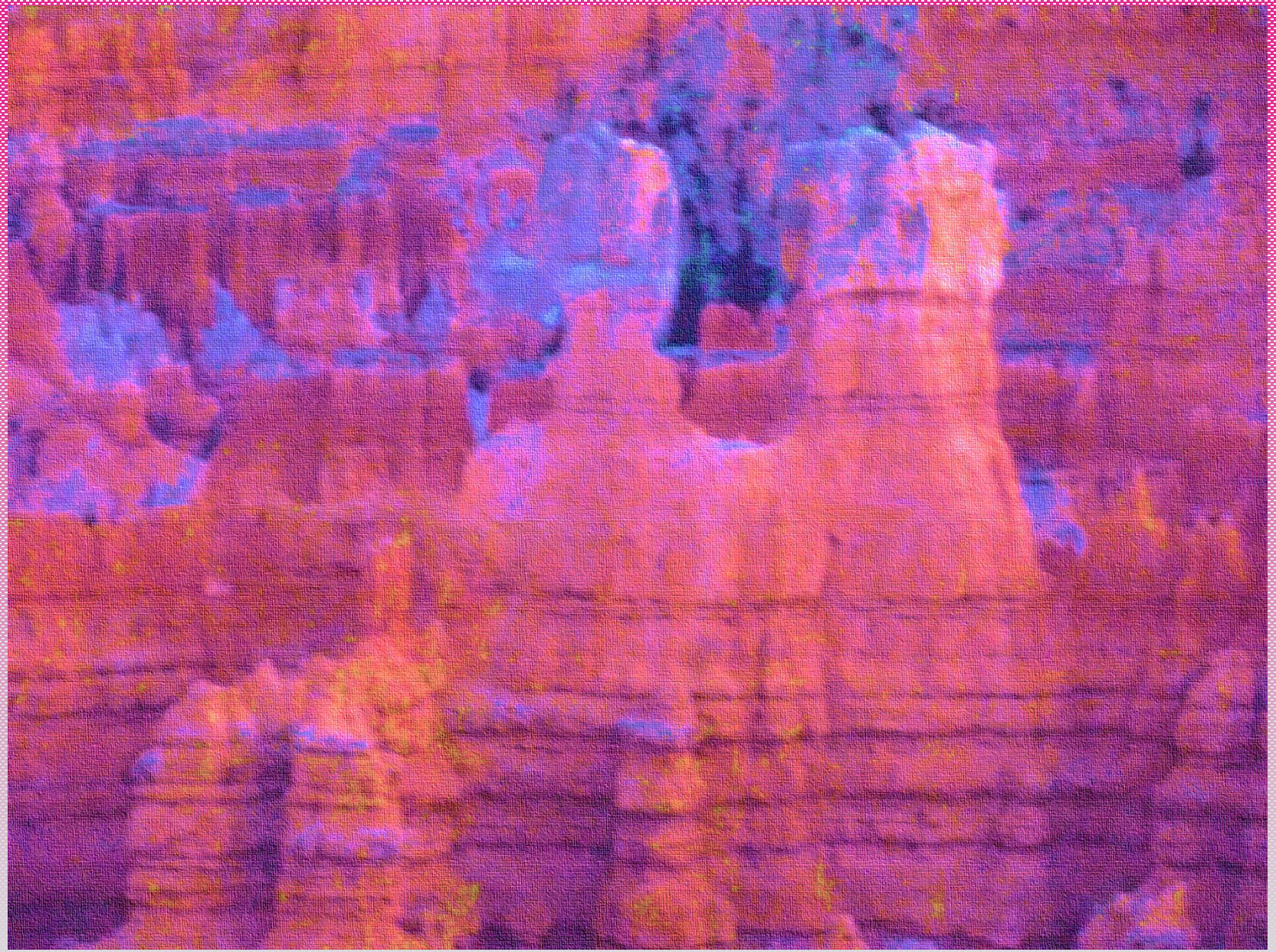




Bryce Canyon National Park is accessible by air or car from Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, St. George or Zion National Park.

FROM ZION NATIONAL PARK (72 miles): An hour and twenty minutes from Bryce.
FROM ST. GEORGE REGIONAL AIRPORT (143 miles): Small regional airport with limited commercial flights. Two hours and forty minutes from the park.
FROM SALT LAKE INTERNATIONAL (273 miles): Major airport with direct flights from many foreign and domestic destinations. Four-hour drive.
FROM MCCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (270 miles): Another major airport with direct flights from many destinations. Four-hour drive.

Besides camping, there is a rustic lodge at the center of the park built in the 1920s; there are plenty of accommodation options in Bryce Canyon City or in nearby Tropic or Cannonville.



Data and information taken and processed from the following sources:

US National Parks Service: https://www.nps.gov/brca/index.htm
National Park Foundation: https://www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks/bryce-canyon-national-park
Utah State official website: https://utah.com/bryce-canyon-national-park
Bryce Canyon Country official website: https://www.brycecanyoncountry.com/
Bryce Canyon National Park official website: https://www.brycecanyon.com/
Bryce Canyon Natural History Association: https://www.brycecanyon.org/
Zion National Park official website: https://www.zionnationalpark.com/about/southern-utah/bryce-canyon-national-park/

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